

# THE TIMES

No. 65,557

THURSDAY APRIL 18 1996



**ADVENTURES FOR LIFE**  
END OF THE LINE  
Niarchos and the age of indulgence  
PAGE 14  
Obituary, 23



**SPRING BOOKS**  
Malcolm Bradbury on John Updike,  
Robert Nye on Coleridge,  
Tom Bower on Simon Wiesenthal  
PAGES 40, 41



**DOUBLE MAN**  
Boris Yeltsin as never seen before  
PAGE 19

**APPOINTMENTS**  
30 PAGES  
of top jobs

Gap between good and bad attacked

## Standards in schools 'are still slipping'

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

SIR Claus Moser, the Oxford don who made a speech six years ago which ignited public anxiety over education, gave a warning last night that standards had slipped still further.

The former Warden of Wadham College, an adviser to the Prince of Wales, welcomed recent government initiatives in schools. But he argued that underachievement had become even more serious since 1990.

In a speech to the Royal Society of Arts in London Sir Claus said that Britain was lagging behind Western Europe and the Far East. There was a widening gap between the "good educational lives of the few and the poor ones of the many".

He said that among the most serious concerns were:

- **Illiteracy:** a serious and "disgraceful" problem. National tests of 11-year-olds showed only 44 per cent of 11-year-olds reaching the expected level in English.
- **Innumeracy:** schools paid too little attention to arithmetic and British nine-year-olds came third from bottom in a table of 14 countries.
- **School buildings:** many children were left in "appalling conditions". A survey estimated that £3 billion was needed over the next five years just to keep schools open.
- **Vocational courses:** these left the workforce short of "middle qualifications" — crucial to economic success.

Before his address Sir Claus said he had been shocked to find that one in 11 teenagers was leaving school without qualifications. This was one in five in the most deprived areas. "The gap between good comprehensive schools and appalling ones is



Sir Claus: Britain lags behind Europe and East

still widening," Sir Claus said. "There are plenty of good comprehensives in Scotland and in rural areas and then there are schools that none of us would send our children to."

Sir Claus, a former head of the Government's statistical service, added: "The more I have looked at developments over the last five years, the more I have been dismayed that the emphasis all the time is on making sure that the able children and the slightly more privileged are not handicapped. The bottom half is even worse off."

Almost six years ago, Sir Claus told the British Association for the Advancement of Science that the 1990s should be designated a "decade for education." The speech prompted a welter of government initiatives and Sir Claus founded the independent National Commission on Education with the backing of the Prime Minister. But last night Sir Claus said that young people were no better off than their counterparts 20 years ago.

He accused ministers of putting electoral advantage above the interests of pupils in framing policies on education vouchers, grammar schools and the expansion of the Assisted Places Scheme. "It is all about politics, not about children," he said.

Pinning his hopes on a Labour government to arrest the decline in standards, Sir Claus challenged Tony Blair to prove his party's commitment by earmarking at least an extra £3 billion a year for education. He said Labour policy statements, with the exception of opposition to selective education, were freer of dogma than the Tories'.

Sir Claus called for nursery education, primary schools and the teaching profession to be given priority by an incoming administration. "On these the entire structure rests, and they should come before anything else in thought, research and resources in the opening years of a new government."

Nursery vouchers should be scrapped and replaced by a phased programme of provision for three and four-year-olds, with primary school funding improved. Sir Claus hoped that grammar and grant-maintained schools would become "first-class comprehensives" serving children of all abilities and backgrounds.

A spokesman for Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, said it was "nonsense" to suggest that the reforms were politically inspired.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, said: "This is a clear and ringing indictment of the Government's education policies. Little has improved and the Secretary of State should be ashamed. Sir Claus could not be clearer: standards are unacceptably low."



Martin Wyld, the gallery's chief restorer, with Holbein's *The Ambassadors*

## National Gallery accused of ruining paintings

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

THE National Gallery, which will this month unveil a major restoration, has come under attack for its "secretive" art cleaning policies and for a series of scientific "blunders" since the Second World War that have altered the look of Old Masters.

A New York audience heard Michael Daley, a British art campaigner, accuse the London gallery of "ruining" a number of valuable paintings, including work by Titian, Veronese and Giampietrino. Mr Daley said he "feared the worst" over Holbein's masterpiece *The Ambassadors*, which the gallery has spent three years cleaning. The 1533 double portrait will go on show on April 29, coinciding with a BBC television documentary.

Mr Daley, a member of the peppery pressure group Artwatch, gave a lecture to the Arts Students League in Manhattan. He quoted from the latest edition of the National Gallery's small-circulation *Technical Bulletin* which admits, in an apparent volte face, that medieval artists were known to use a final, thin layer of oil and resin to tone down

parts of their work. Such a theory has long been resisted by the gallery's cleaning experts, Mr Daley said.

He feared that the cleaning solvents used by the gallery often destroyed those tonal layers, altering the artistic balance of great works and robbing them of subtlety. "Things which were once different become more equal," he said. The National Gallery conducted "the most ferocious cleaning" with solvents of any gallery in the world and was guilty of "removing varnishes in their entirety as swiftly as possible".

The *Bulletin* report described the restoration of two paintings by Giampietrino, an early 16th-century student of da Vinci. The report noted that Giampietrino would apply a final layer of walnut oil and resin to tone down colours.

A similar claim about medieval art was made in 1950 by the scholar Sir Ernst Gombrich, one of the first people to express fears about the gallery's cleaning practices. He was rebuked by the Trafalgar Square art establishment. When Mr Daley brought the latest *Bulletin* to

the attention of Sir Ernst, 87, the old man expressed great delight and said "there is now more joy in heaven".

Mr Daley said he had been refused access to the Holbein during the cleaning process and had not been allowed to see restorers' dossiers. Nor were the solvents disclosed. He feared the chemicals used by the gallery in past restorations had again been used, and he did not like to predict what they might have done to the painting's finish.

Last night, however, Martin Wyld, the chief restorer at the National Gallery, dismissed the idea that the gallery had been "secretive".

"Everybody who knows about German Renaissance paintings has been in to see *The Ambassadors*. Over the past three years, several dozen scholars, curators and conservators from museums in this country, and in Europe and America, have seen it twice during its treatment, at the beginning and the end. All national newspaper art critics were also invited at the beginning and end."

Asked why he had refused

Continued on page 2, col 5



Salome by Giampietrino, left, and Veronese's *Family of Darius*

## Duke and Duchess to stay 'bestest of friends'

BY ALAN HAMILTON AND EMMA WILKINS

THE Duchess of York declared yesterday that she would remain "the bestest of friends" with her estranged husband as the couple, and 28 other petitioners, were granted a divorce in their absence in the High Court's Family Division. The hearing lasted less than three minutes.

Under the rubber-stamp simplicity of "quickie" divorce procedure there was no need for either party to be present. Apart from judge and clerk, the only other occupants of the

course it's sad. It was a personal decision between Andrew and I and no one else was involved." Asked about her future, she said: "We'll take every day as it comes."

The Duke was at the former marital home in Sunninghill, Berkshire, preparing to drive to work at the Royal Navy base at Portland, Dorset, on his way to weekend exercises in Scandinavia.

Having been granted a decree nisi yesterday, the Duke needs only apply by post in six weeks' time for the decree to be made absolute — when the ten-year marriage will be over.

The formal ending of the royal union was in the sharpest of contrasts to its beginning. The couple married in July 1986 in Westminster Abbey before a worldwide television audience of 500 million.

The only grounds for divorce given, and the only ones necessary, were that the couple had been separated for at least two years, and that both parties consented.

**The damage to the Royal Family comes from our having higher expectations of them?**

William Rees-Mogg, page 20

small and simply furnished courtroom in Somerset House were a petitioner in an entirely different case objecting to costs and 25 reporters.

While the hearing was in progress, the Duchess emerged from her Swiss skiing chalet at Verbier, where she is spending a week's holiday with the couple's children — Princess Beatrice, seven, and Princess Eugenie, six.

She said she and the Duke had spoken by telephone before the hearing. "I speak to him every day. The children are well, everyone is well. Our children are very secure and happy children because they know their mother and father are the bestest of friends."

Asked if this was the saddest day of her life, she said: "Yes, I would say that was an understatement. It's very sad, of



"I'd just like you to know that you're still my bestest friend"

## Peres is urged to continue attacks

Israel's top military officer in Lebanon has issued an unprecedented challenge to Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, urging him not to order a swift end to the attacks on Lebanon.

The intervention by Brigadier-General Giora Inbar has prompted a political dispute about the conduct of the war. Page 17

## Fall in jobless

The Government welcomed an unexpectedly large fall in unemployment yesterday after the number of people out of work and claiming benefit dropped by 25,700. Page 25

Buying The Times overseas: Australia \$12.00, Belgium 18.00, Canada \$12.00, Caribbean 12.00, Cypriot £1.20, Denmark 18.00, Finland 17.00, France 14.00, Germany DM 12.50, Gibraltar 9.00, Greece Dr 300, Netherlands Fl 4.50, Ireland 12.00, Italy L 4.500, Luxembourg 12.00, Madrid 12.00, Malta 4.50, Morocco Dir 27.00, Norway Kr 20.00, Portugal 12.00, Spain 12.00, Sweden 12.00, Switzerland S Fr 4.00, Tunisia Din 2.200, USA \$12.00.

The Times on the Internet <http://www.the-times.co.uk>



## Pig heart pioneers win global backer

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE prospect of the first pig-to-human transplant moved closer yesterday after the international drug firm, Sandoz Pharma, bought the tiny British company that has pioneered the research.

Two Cambridge scientists, who set up the privately owned company Imutran, became the first in the world last year to transplant pigs' hearts into monkeys, overcoming the problem of rejection. They said that they planned to perform the first pig-to-human transplant this year.

There is a global shortage of organ donors and the potential demand is huge. In Britain there are 6,000 people on the official waiting list for organs and 30,000 are waiting in America. Sandoz, the Swiss-based multinational, said it was buying Imutran in a multimillion pound deal to realise the potential of the technology in the shortest possible time.

The deal, the exact size of which is being kept secret, is a significant vote of confidence in the work pioneered by Imutran, set up 12 years ago by Dr David White, an immunologist at Cambridge University, and John Wallwork, director of transplantation at Papworth hospital, Cam-

bridge. Dr Wallwork said yesterday that the purchase would ensure their work would go forward. "We said last year that we would do the first human transplant this year if progress continued in the lab and we overcame certain regulatory issues. That is still the position."

Dr Wallwork said it would "probably not" make him a millionaire when account was taken of other investors in Imutran. The company was founded by Dr White and Dr Wallwork with Ian Kent, a Cambridge businessman, in 1984 and today has 45 employees.

The company has bred a herd of genetically modified pigs by injecting human genes into pig embryos to provide the organs for the cross-species transplants, known as xenotransplants. Imutran's aim is to breed thousands of genetically modified pigs from which organs can be harvested.

In experiments last year, 18 transgenic pig hearts transplanted into monkeys were still beating up to 60 days later. Normally a pig's heart would turn black and be rejected within two minutes of being transplanted into another species.

TV & RADIO	46, 47	LETTERS	21	ARTS	37-39	TRAVEL NEWS	34, 35
WEATHER	24	OBITUARIES	23	CHESS & BRIDGE	44	BODY AND MIND	18
CROSSWORDS	24, 48	WILLIAM REES-MOGG	20	COURT & SOCIAL	22	LAW REPORT	36

**STEPTRONIC GEARBOX**  
13% MORE RESPONSIVE

THE NEW BMW 5 SERIES

# Destination unknown as Short steams ahead

NEWS IN BRIEF

### Publisher withdraws 'racist' IQ book

A book that claims black people are less intelligent than white people has been withdrawn by the publisher, John Wiley & Sons. The author, Chris Brand, had made "repellent" assertions in his book *The g Factor: General Intelligence and its Implications*, due to be launched today. Mr Brand, a psychology lecturer at Edinburgh University who describes himself as a scientific racist, said the decision was "stupid and cowardly". He is seeking legal advice. Students at the university have asked that he be removed as their lecturer.

### Sex case acquittal

Donald Macleod, 55, a Free Church of Scotland professor of theology, was acquitted in Edinburgh of one charge of indecent assault when the alleged victim said the attack happened a year earlier than the date on the charge sheet. The trial continues on five other charges of indecent assault, involving five women, which the professor denies.

### Claim dismissed

The Ministry of Defence last night refused to accept a claim by the parents of Louise Jensen, the 22-year-old Dutch girl killed by three Royal Green Jackets soldiers in Cyprus, that the Army was partially responsible for her death. But the ministry confirmed that any claim from Paul and Anette Jensen for compensation would be treated "sympathetically".

### Killer locked up

A man who stabbed an academic to death at York University and wandered round the campus in her clothes, was sent to a secure hospital indefinitely by Leeds Crown Court. Robin Pask, 34, from Bolton, Greater Manchester, admitted the manslaughter of Elizabeth Howe, 34, on the grounds of diminished responsibility while attending an Open University course.

### Driver free

Philip Hackwell, 29, who bundled an unconscious woman into his boot thinking he had killed her in a car accident, was given a suspended eight-month sentence at Ipswich Crown Court for trying to pervert justice. He freed her when she banged on the lid. He was banned for 12 months and fined £100 for careless driving.

### Protest at editor

More than 170 journalists at the *Financial Times* passed a vote of no confidence in the paper's editor, Richard Lambert, and his deputy, Andrew Gowers, in protest at proposed job cuts. Six staff on the picture desk are to be made redundant and 16 sub-editors have been told their six-month employment contracts would not be renewed.

### Law resignation

Henry Hodge, the Law Society council member who fought unsuccessfully against Martin Mears for the presidency last year, is resigning after 12 years. Mr Hodge, 52, who is taking up a part-time post with the Legal Aid Board, said he thought the Law Society, under its present leadership, was becoming "a bit of a laughing stock".

### Potter award

A drama script idea about a young man who falls in love with a travelling salesman has won the £10,000 Dennis Potter Play of the Year Award. Glasgow playwright John Milarky's "outline" submission for his play *Lak A Note To Follow Soh* will be made into a television drama. The award goes to playwrights of exceptional promise.

It is often difficult to imagine an MP actually doing any of the jobs on which she or he offers opinions. To the late Reginald Maudling, who as plump President of the Board of Trade complained at how long it took the British worker to build a car, Dennis Skinner once shouted: "An 'ow long would it tek you, fats?" The arrow punctured.

Yesterday, Michael Fabricant (C, Mid Staffs) spluttered that unlike Labour MPs, he had real experience of engineering, but it was not easy to visualise the strawberry blond Mr Fabricant in oily overalls, at the lathe. How



MATTHEW PARRIS  
POLITICAL SKETCH

refreshing, therefore, to find a debate about trains led by Labour's Transport Spokeswoman, Clare Short. Ms Short is one of the few MPs it is possible to picture driving a steam engine.

Fresh from her tax gaffe and opening the debate on Railtrack, her locomotive skills were now on trial. From her cab at the dispatch box, Driver Short checked the Labour train coupled behind her.

It boasted many carriages, including a couple of after-lunch sleeping cars, for (by contrast to the Tories) the Opposition had turned out in force. You cannot say Labour

is a very sleek train, a high-speed train or even a Sprinter: a distinctly mixed train, but at least they are all hitched together these days, on the same track and more or less willing to be hauled along, groaning a bit, in the same direction.

From the corner, standing in the shadows, wary Chief Signalman (and Whip) Dewar, watched, eyes hooded, as Ms Short's train pulled out of the station. Warm cheers from the Labour benches sustained her.

Driver Short was nervous. Consulting her handwritten notes, she wobbled but was never quite derailed. Clattering over the points she tried a little clumsily to hitch up carriages from Northern Ireland, reminding Ulster MPs that their railways too faced privatisation, and inviting their votes. Gathering momentum and confidence, she took the parliamentary equivalent of wet leaves on the line — a scripted joke about tax — at speed and with courage. She made it through with ease.

A Tory vandal, Patrick Nicholls (Teignbridge) lobbed bricks on to the line, in the form of a sneer at the erstwhile British Rail: but they were quickly crushed and she steamed on.

In all this she was much encouraged by Stoker Prescott, Labour's Deputy Leader, who kept up a rumble of growls, cheers and gestures in her support.

Driver Short: "This is very important indeed."  
Stoker Prescott: "Absolute! Grrr..."  
Driver Short: "Railtrack issued a false prospectus."  
Stoker Prescott: "Like the Tory manifesto! Grrr..."

Then she approached a tricky junction just a shade last. Labour would increase the efficiency of the railways, she gabbled. A Tory tried to throw the points: "How?" he interrupted.

"With higher levels of investment," she countered, still on track.

Transport Minister George Young tried to throw the next set of points. "I'm interested in that remark about investment," he said, craftily. "Where from?"

"Public/private partnerships," wobbled Short. Stoker Prescott waved a volume of Labour's proposals for partnerships. Rattled but on track, Short clattered on.

Where, ultimately, this train is going remains unclear. Important junctions lie ahead, and Thin Controller Tony Blair has a timetable of his own. But sketchwriters (we trainspotters of the parliamentary world) returned to Thermos flasks yesterday with no accident to report.

# Major refuses to pander to the 'reckless' Right

FROM JILL SHERMAN IN PRAGUE AND PHILIP WEBSTER

JOHN MAJOR let it be known last night that he would resist pressure for radical right-wing policies after the Tories' drubbing at the Staffordshire by-election last week.

The Prime Minister told senior colleagues that he regarded demands for hefty tax cuts as "reckless and silly" and he has made plain that he will not be pushed into a panic Cabinet reshuffle to restore the Tories' fortunes. His firm line emerged amid a fresh outbreak of Conservative tensions over the party's plight

with senior MPs criticising an early morning outburst by Brian Mawhinney yesterday in which he accused a BBC interviewer of suggesting the Tories should "dump the Prime Minister".

The party chairman, who remained unrepentant about his attack on Radio 4's *Today* presenter Sue MacGregor, was accused by some colleagues of having chosen the wrong target in attacking a respected journalist with a reputation for fairness, and of handing ammunition to Labour. The angry exchange over-



Dr Mawhinney at a news conference yesterday. He was unrepentant about his attack in an interview



Sue MacGregor was accused during an interview of calling for the Tories to dump Mr Major

shadowed the launch of the Conservative and Labour local election campaigns.

When Ms MacGregor reminded Dr Mawhinney that in 1990 the Tories had "got rid of" the poll tax and Margaret Thatcher, and suggested the party would have to do something equally dramatic to avoid losing more council seats, Dr Mawhinney exploded.

"What you have just suggested to me in front of the nation is that we should dump the Prime Minister," he said. "You drew the parallel with Mrs Thatcher and that is a ludicrous and indefensible question and if you think I'm annoyed with you it is because it is that kind of sneaky question by *Today* programme presenters which so annoys people who listen to this programme up and down the country."

Labour accused the Tory chairman of trying to "bully" the BBC and professed themselves so delighted by his "tantrum" that they replayed the interview to journalists attending the launch of their council election campaign.

John Prescott said: "I must thank the Tory chairman for blurting out what is really being thought by most Tory

MPs at the moment — dump the Prime Minister."

He added: "We will be keeping a very wary eye on the BBC to make sure they do not cave in in the face of the orchestrated campaign of intimidation being led by a desperate, rattled and incompetent Mr Mawhinney."

The *Today* programme stood its ground and a spokesman insisted its presenters would not change their interviewing style. "We believe Sue MacGregor's question was completely justified and pertinent," he said.

But Mr Mawhinney's supporters said his attack had been justified. It echoed the stream of letters received at Conservative Central Office suggesting that the programme was tough on the Tories and soft on Labour. One said the Tories had taken

60 telephone calls yesterday backing Mr Mawhinney.

The jitters atmosphere among Tory MPs has been heightened by persistent suggestions by informed Westminster sources that the decision to hold the Staffordshire South-East by-election last Thursday was taken against the advice of Mr Mawhinney, who wanted it to be held on the day of the local elections next month in order to get the bad news out of the way on the same day. It is said that Mr Major overruled the advice because he wanted to observe the convention that the by-election be called within three months of the death of the former MP.

Mr Major's supporters have in turn complained that the campaign was not well-run and have accused the organisers of failing to warn him how bad the result could be. Friends say that he remains shaken by the scale of the near 14,000 reverse.

The Prime Minister, who flew to Prague yesterday on a four-day tour of Eastern Europe, has effectively rejected the demand of John Redwood, whom he defeated for the leadership last year, for "a moral crusade in tax cutting" and a shift to the right on Europe. Mr Major told colleagues yesterday that he had no intention of changing tack to suit his critics. "Judge me on my record," he has told friends.

Mr Major has made clear that tax cuts cannot be considered in isolation and must be weighed against public spending commitments and plans. "You cannot do anything in isolation," he has said. "You have to look at the public expenditure side and public commitments."

Mr Major is determined the Government is not seen to panic after the Staffordshire defeat or the expected bad result in the May local elections. He has indicated that no early reshuffle is on the cards and he may not even carry one out in July. He has told friends that he has not even started reshuffling his ministers in spite of continual reports that one or other is to be dropped. "People say it's July so there must be a reshuffle."

The Prime Minister has voiced strong doubts over whether there will be any further defections. Nevertheless his cautious approach to tax cuts will appeal to any Tory dissidents who may be considering jumping ship.

Peter Riddell, page 8

# Cook signals return to values of 'old' Labour

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ROBIN COOK raised the banner of the Labour Left yesterday with a powerful speech in which he committed the party to protecting the poor, strengthening union links and increasing earnings for the low paid.

The Shadow Foreign Secretary set out a hard-line approach to reversing Tory policies, claiming that Labour would be the party of "social solidarity".

In language far removed from that used by Tony Blair last week, Mr Cook underlined Labour's commitment to equality and community, making the most vulnerable in society the party's first priority in government.

While Mr Blair used last week's visit to the US to emphasise the party's new centre-ground image, Mr Cook stressed its commitment to maintaining traditional Labour values. Mr Cook's speech to the Scottish Trades Union Congress was hailed by Labour traditionalists as sending a clear signal to the leadership to avoid further moves to the Right.

Against nervousness among Scottish Labour activists over the party's direction, Mr Cook mapped out a strategy based on equality and community, in which low pay, poverty and unemployment would be the first targets. "The poor may be many times more than top taxpayers, but they get a tenth of the public attention," he said. "Labour must speak for the poor. We must do it because our values of equality and community make us the party of social solidarity."

"Because each of us understands that if we accept a society that does not help those who are vulnerable and weak, then it will not help us when we are vulnerable and weak."

As the most prominent left-wing Shadow Cabinet member, Mr Cook is viewed by Labour's traditional wing as pivotal in preventing the party moving away from its socialist roots. His role in overseeing the development of party policy has reassured some backbenchers that traditional Labour values will be protected. Far from pitching for the middle-ground from which Labour has captured many Tory votes, Mr Cook said that Labour's bid for power would benefit the poorest. "We want power so that we can use it in the interest of justice, not for the interest of the privileged. And we want power so that we can share it with the people of our nation from whom it has been taken."

While Mr Cook did not stray from established policy, he set a very distinctive tone in a speech from which the term "new Labour" was conspicuously absent. However, Mr Blair's aides were keen to point out that the speech had been written with the leader's agreement.

Ken and Barbara Follett accepted undisclosed libel damages in the High Court yesterday over a column by Anne Robinson in *Today* newspaper which questioned the sincerity of their fundraising activities for the Labour Party.

News (UK) Ltd, publishers of the paper until its recent closure, its former editor, Richard Stott, and Miss Robinson accepted that the attack went beyond legitimate political exchange.



Cook: "Labour must speak for the poor"

# Gallery accused of art 'blunders'

Continued from page 1

to show the dossier to Mr Daley, he said: "We've shown him a great many restorers' dossiers in the past. We tend to restrict access to these working-notes to experts in the field."

"As for the Giampietrino work, Mr Daley has confused an oil layer and a varnish layer exactly as he accuses restorers of doing. What was found on Giampietrino's *Christ Carrying the Cross* was a glazing layer of brown oil paint, not varnish. Like all oil layers, it has dried extremely hard and no such glazing layer could be removed accidentally. There is still no evidence that a coloured varnish layer was ever used in the way that Mr Daley suggests. Such coloured oil paint layers are extremely rare in Renaissance painting — there was no sign, for example, of any such layer in the other Giampietrino painting in the National Gallery, *Salome*."

In an attempt to back up his claims, Mr Daley produced "before and after" photographs of Giampietrino's *Salome*. Before cleaning, the areas near the severed head of John the Baptist were cast in shadow — a moral statement by the artist, Mr Daley sug-

gested, with the artist deploying tonal values to create a definite effect. After its restoration the painting has lost those subtleties, and is much lighter. A 1956 restoration of Veronese's *Family of Darius Before Alexander the Great* produced similar effects.

However, Mr Wyld dismissed the criticism of *Salome*. "He may have looked at a dark print and a light print — without seeing the actual work. If anything, in reality, it is just as dark and the contrasts [are] accentuated by the cleaning," he said.

Mr Daley and Artwatch first expressed their fears to Nicholas Baring, the National Gallery chairman, in a letter last September. More than a month later Mr Baring replied to say that he was "satisfied that the conservation and scientific specialists of the gallery are fully in touch with new developments". Mr Baring did not see any cause for the cleaning moratorium suggested by Artwatch.

At the end of his lecture Mr Daley was surrounded by art lovers. Mr Daley, who repeated a call for a restoration moratorium at the gallery, quoted the words of Degas: "A man who touches a picture ought to be deported".

EXHAUST SYSTEM  
6% FEWER EMISSIONS

THE NEW BMW 5 SERIES

Germ  
wido  
over in  
INTERNET  
Hea for  
in city's s  
Student 'c

# German-born widow to sue over internment

By ADRIAN LEE

A GERMAN-born pensioner who says that she was wrongly interned as an enemy alien during the Second World War has been granted legal aid to seek compensation from the Government.

Gertrude Timmis, 78, a widow, said that she decided to sue more than 50 years after the end of the war because she cannot forget the humiliation she endured. She spent three years in prisons and camps and says that she was victimised.

Mrs Timmis, who lives in Droitwich, Hereford and Worcester, says that she should have been exempt from internment because her stepbrother served in the Royal Navy. "I feel very bitter about what happened to me and when I remember the conditions in prison and the abuse I got when I hadn't done anything wrong, I feel sick to the bottom of my stomach. I am not being greedy, I just want my name cleared."

"I was given the worst chores and made to work really hard. The criminals were given better treatment than me. We were stripped to the skin and given internal examinations. We were treated like animals." The decision to intern thousands of people was controversial at the time. In August 1940, a letter to *The Times* described the policy as "conceived in panic and... incapable of sober justification".



Gertrude Timmis: jail cooks spat in her food

The writers, who included Lady Violet Bonham-Carter, Gilbert Murray and H.G. Wells, called for an end to the practice, describing internment as cruel.

Mrs Timmis was interned in 1941, ten years after her arrival in Britain at the age of 13. Her mother, who died when Mrs Timmis was a child, had settled here after marrying a Scotsman. Mrs Timmis was still using her German name of Stang because she had not been legally adopted.

Her stepbrother George Addison, on whom the case hinges, died when his ship, the

destroyer *HMS Quorn*, was sunk off France by a German mini-submarine in 1944.

Mrs Timmis, who was widowed twice, says that she has official papers stating that her internment was an error. Her relationship to a man serving in the forces should have allowed her to remain free. Her solicitor David Haughton said: "We are trying our best to get this to court but it is proving difficult because so many of the relevant documents have been destroyed."

Mrs Timmis said: "I consider myself British, this is my home, but I feel I have been let down by my country. Now I am getting older I may not be able to afford to look after myself and if I want to do something I have to do it now, before it is too late. I am not asking for a fortune, just compensation for the three years of my life and the wages I lost."

The Home Office confirmed that Mrs Timmis had been held under the Emergency Powers (Defence) Act of 1939. It said that it was not aware of any payments having been made to former internees.

Mrs Timmis, one of 23,000 people of German and Austrian origin who were interned, was held at Winslow Green prison, Birmingham; Holloway, north London; Liverpool and the Isle of Man. She said that at Holloway the cooks spat in her food and she went on hunger strike to get a transfer.

She was released in 1944 on condition that she agreed to be repatriated but managed to remain in Britain. "They just forgot about me." She has a slight German accent and said that some people in her home town still refused to accept her.

Nicholas Jacobs, who has published a book on the subject, *The Internment Aliens* by Francois Lafitte, said: "It is very brave of her to do this. There was never a general apology for this panic measure - I think because the Government feared legal action. It is now considered by historians to have been unnecessary. Some people were extremely badly treated."



Drill Sergeant Robertson has a friendly word with a military detainee at Colchester

# Army assures its reluctant guests that camp will be no tea party

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

SHORT back and sides, military fatigues and square-bushing were highlights of the regime announced yesterday for young offenders when the Prison Service's much-heralded "boot camp" opened its doors for inspection.

The Young Offender Institution (YOI) in the garrison town of Colchester will take 32 inmates from this autumn, alongside 200 military detainees, at a cost of over £1 million a year. Lieutenant Colonel Glen Grant, the commandant, said: "Reveille will be at 0600 hours. You can be sure we shan't be taking them a cup of tea when we wake them up."

Colonel Grant, who will be the military governor of the institution, added: "It's not a harsh regime. There's no cruelty or any attempt to demean anyone. It's not *The Hill*, but it's hard."

The military ethos of the camp, which is within the confines of the Military Corrective Training Centre for Army, Royal Navy and RAF offenders, is what Ann Widdecombe, the Prisons Minister, hopes will prove to be a telling step in tackling the problem of persistent offenders.

She said: "The Home Secretary and I have been impressed by what goes on at the MCTC. The sense of discipline, of smartness, of calm and, most importantly, of achievement, is clear as one walks around and talks to detainees."

"We decided that we would like to test whether the military approach to custody could benefit civilian young offenders and be effective in reducing the level of reoffending among them."

In spite of criticism within the Prison Service, officials pointed out that while there was 70 per cent recidivism among young civilian offenders, only 7 per cent of military detainees reoffended. Miss Widdecombe, who disclosed details of the venture in a parliamentary answer in the Commons earlier yesterday, found military staff anxious to prove her right when she

visited the institution. At the glasshouse farm, where serving men were converting a new slurry base for the pigs, Staff Sergeant Mike Baron said: "Shovelling muck all day can be fairly arduous."

The farm and education centre, where motor maintenance, carpentry and decorating skills are taught, are intended to provide a purpose in life for the young offenders, who will spend six months with the Army after being judged suitable.

Compulsory gym each day, parade calls and inspections are intended to provide "backbone". Only bayonet drills and target practice will be absent from the civilian programme.

Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, who attended yesterday's open day, said: "This scheme is not intended to provide a source of ready recruits to the armed forces, as I have heard described. What we can do is pass on military skills to help the Prison Service deal with a worrying social problem. This is an important and exciting initiative. Self-confidence, self-esteem and self-belief can be imparted to civilians as well as military detainees and this is our aim."

The 32 will live in F-block, apart from military detainees, but will mix with servicemen for educational classes and vocational training. A barber will visit the block twice a week to ensure that haircuts are military length.

Richard Tilt, Director-General of the Prison Service, said: "I fully support the pilot scheme. It offers the opportunity to develop self-esteem and self-worth. This is an excellent training, custodial establishment."

The scheme, which will cost £28,700 per young offender compared with no more than £18,000 in a normal institution, will be kept under constant review. Jack Straw, Shadow Home Secretary, described the initiative as an admission of the Government's failure to tackle youth crime.

## INTERNMENT

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES  
Sir - We hope that the communication from nine London correspondents of leading newspapers in four neutral European countries, published in your issue of August 16, will awaken the public to the widespread damage inflicted on our prestige not only in European countries but also in America by the policy of wholesale internment. Cruelty is inherent in it.  
A 1940 letter to *The Times* attacking internment included H.G. Wells among the signatories

# Plea for calm after PC is shot in city's spiralling gang war

By KATE ALDERSON

A POLICE officer shot in his home by two masked gunmen may have been the victim of mistaken identity in a territory war between Liverpool drug gangs. The attack was the fifth shooting on Merseyside since Saturday.

Senior officers described the wounding as the "reckless, cowardly acts of barbarians" yesterday and appealed for calm across the city which last year recorded the nation's fastest-rising crime rate.

PC Stephen Hardy, 26, was asleep at home in West Derby, four miles from the city centre, with his girlfriend Caroline Kennedy and 12-month-old baby son when he was woken by a crashing noise downstairs. He believed he was being burgled but instead he was confronted by two gunmen and told to lie down on the bedroom floor. He was trying to dial 999 when both men opened fire with handguns. The officer was hit four times in the legs and arm.

The gunmen, escaped from the modern car-de-sac in a BMW car that was later found abandoned. PC Hardy, based at Marsh Lane police station, Boode, had surgery at Liverpool's Fazakerley Hospital, where his condition was



Hardy: wounded four times at home

described as serious but stable. A man living on the estate said PC Hardy could have been the victim of a mistake; a known criminal lived in the area but had fled almost two weeks ago.

James Sharples, the chief constable, said PC Hardy had not been involved in any major crime investigation or large operation since he joined the force in 1993, and added: "There are a number of different lines of inquiry." Mr

Sharples said the spiralling gun violence of recent days had left him "desperately worried" and he warned criminals that they would be confronted with force by his officers.

"The behaviour by criminals in the city inevitably runs the risk of injury to innocent members of the public, as well as others. This will not be tolerated," he said.

Turf wars over the drug distribution business were believed to be behind many of the shooting incidents. Other factors, such as personality clashes, could also have triggered disputes.

The current spate of shootings began on Saturday, when three men were "kneecapped" after going drinking in a pub in Wavertree, two miles from the city centre. On Sunday a pregnant woman escaped unharmed after a house in Wavertree was sprayed with bullets in a drive-by shooting. In the early hours of Tuesday morning, masked gunmen burst into two houses. Liam McGee, 18, was in bed with his girlfriend when he was shot in the legs four times in Anfield. A 24-year-old man was shot in the legs as he watched television in Boode. Paul Stephenson, the assistant chief constable, described the

gunmen as cowardly barbarians and said that police were facing a "very fluid, volatile situation".

Police will also look into possible links between recent attacks and events that followed last May's shooting death of David Ungi, 36, who was associated with a major gang in the Dingle/Toxteth area of Liverpool. There was an outbreak of tit-for-tat shootings as rival gangs battled for territory.

The power and wealth of the gangs was illustrated by Ungi's funeral procession, which almost equalled the east London turnout for Ronnie Kray's burial. There were 31 black limousines for mourners and £12,000 behind the bar for the wake.

Recorded crime rose by 12 per cent last year and drug trafficking alone rose by 60 per cent. In the past 15 months there have been five murders, 53 wounding, and 432 armed robberies on the Liverpool streets.

Three or four drug networks are believed to have formed round criminal clans. A senior detective said: "These are long-established groups who once burgled and robbed banks. Now they are in drugs. You see them wearing a lot of gold and driving BMWs."

# Student 'chose to die in library'

By OLIVER AUGUST

A STUDENT killed himself in his favourite library while reading about death in the Greek classics. Richard Metcalf, 18, was found dead at Winchester College days after winning a place to read classics at Oxford University, an inquest was told yesterday.

He surrounded himself with the works of Sophocles before taking a drug overdose and lying on a pile of cushions. His parents believe he was reading Sophocles's tragedy *Electra*, in which the heroine mourns the death of her father and her brother plots to kill their mother. Richard's mother Carolyn, 41, decided to read *Electra* after her son's death to try to

understand him. She said: "Richard had spent many months reclassifying the college library. He felt secure there and maybe that's why he chose to die there. It may have been his way of leaving some sort of legacy and becoming a permanent part of the college."

His father Philip, 40, said: "We believe Richard felt so happy at college he did not want to leave. Even though he was a brilliant academic he may have been too sensitive to face the adult world."

The alarm was raised by a fellow pupil at the £13,000-a-year school and an empty pill bottle was discovered in a rubbish bin at the library. The inquest at Winchester was told that the student had

taken an overdose of at least 39 Distalgic painkilling tablets last January but did not leave a suicide note.

Richard, who worked as a college librarian, was last seen by Peter Roberts, his housemaster, on the night before his death. Mr Roberts said: "He was very fond of the library. Each week he dealt with the catalogue for the library, which was used by a small number of boys to work. The last time I saw him was at 11pm in one of the college's towers when I went to lock up the doors."

Richard had reorganised the small library at the top of the tower which caters for the school's 70 scholars. They had been asked by him to list the books they would like to have

bought. His death came just after he had won a guaranteed place to study classics at Merton College. This should have taken all academic pressure off him, Mr Roberts said.

But Richard had suffered from a serious depressive illness and had been prescribed anti-depressants in 1994, although Dr John Davies, Winchester College medical officer, said he seemed to be over the illness last summer.

Dr Davies said: "It was agreed his academic programme should be made lighter. By September 1995 he appeared to be very positive and at that stage was off all medication."

An open verdict was recorded.



ALUMINIUM SUSPENSION 15% LESS UNSPRUNG MASS

THE NEW BMW 5 SERIES

# Duchess writes new future as marriage saga comes to end

BY EMMA WILKINS

THE Duchess of York is expected to trim her expenses, move into a converted stable block and take up her pen as a children's author again in order to make ends meet after her divorce.

With a modest sum of £500,000 awarded as part of her settlement, the Duchess is likely to exploit new markets in the Far East and America for her *Budgie* the Little Helicopter books and spin-off products.

Two new books about the adventures of a freckle-faced little princess will be published in America in October and further works are in the pipeline, according to publishing sources.

The financial future of Princesses Eugenie and Beatrice has been secured with a £1.4 million trust fund from the

Queen, but the Duchess will need to reduce her personal living costs. She may choose to move from her rented house in Wentworth, Surrey, which costs £72,000 a year, to Sunninghill Park, the Duke's Berkshire residence. It is understood that initial estimates for converting the stables to domestic use have been reduced by £300,000.

The move would have its financial advantages: electricity, water and gas could be provided by the Duke and the couple might be able to pool their staff. At the moment the Duchess spends £32,000 a month on a team of servants.

Some reports have suggested that the Duchess was desperate to continue to be known as Her Royal Highness, but one friend said she was better off without the title.

"It frees her to be able to go around the world, getting publicity for her work and making money without worrying if it is embarrassing to the Royal Family at home."

The Duchess can look forward to publication of *The Royal Switch* and *Bright Lights in America* in October. The stories feature Amanda, an 11-year-old red-haired princess, and Emily, a poor little rich girl from Manhattan. The pair travel the world doing good deeds and getting into scrapes. Some sources said the publishing deal with Bantam Doubleday included an advance payment of £300,000.

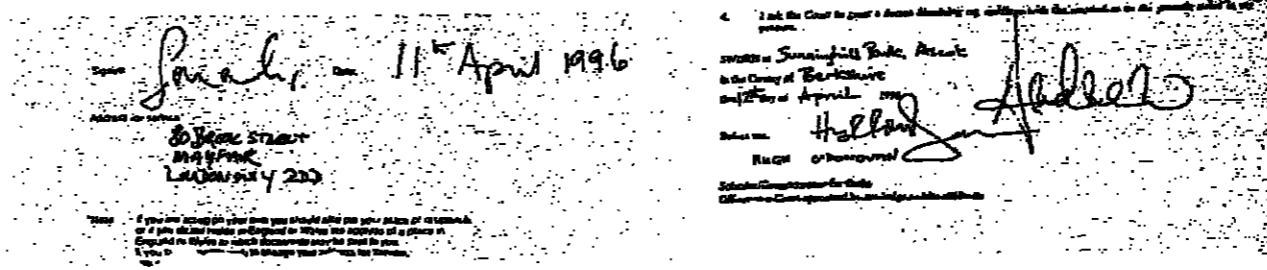
The books will sell at \$14.95 and merchandising is a possibility. "No formal merchandising deal has been made, but it is certainly something that we would look at," a spokeswoman for Bantam Doubleday in New York said.

The Duchess's royalties from *Budgie* are expected to accelerate in the next few years. Fox Television has commissioned a fourth series of *Budgie* cartoons in a deal said to be worth £1.3 million. The little helicopter appears on merchandise from toys to mugs and t-shirts in more than 30 countries.

*Sleepy Kids*, the company which owns the worldwide animation and marketing rights for *Budgie*, made pre-tax profits of £973,000 for the



The Duchess of York faced a barrage of reporters and cameramen yesterday. Below: documents of the decree nisi



year to October 1995. The forecast for this year is a £1.7 million profit, but that includes profits for the company's other cartoon characters, such as *Potsworth*.

*Sleepy Kids* has always refused to disclose the Duchess's share of the profits, but most industry experts estimate it at 15 to 20 per cent.

The next market for the Duchess to exploit is the Far East, which is said to have enormous potential. Japan is a

bigger market than America for some cartoons and *Thomas the Tank Engine* is a great success in Tokyo.

The Duchess has recognised the potential of the Far East and is discussing ways of breaking into the market with businessmen in America and Hong Kong. David Tang, the Hong Kong Chinese multimillionaire, whose family fortune was founded with the Kowloon Bus Company, is a close friend and a committed sup-

porter of her work. It is understood that the Duchess's discussions with Ray Chambers, a New Jersey millionaire, and his associates have concentrated on his contacts in the Far East. The Duchess emerged from her meeting with Mr Chambers in January declaring that her financial problems, then said to include debts of up to £3 million, were over.

The subject of boyfriends remains a difficult issue for

the Duchess, who will never escape the embarrassment of her liaison with John Bryan, her so-called financial adviser. The Duchess's latest beau is said to be Thomas Muster, a muscular Austrian tennis player whose former girlfriend blamed her for the couple's break-up.

It seems likely that whatever her romantic and financial future, the Duchess's staunchest friend will remain the Duke.



The Duchess was still wearing her wedding ring when she appeared in Switzerland yesterday

# High Court puts its seal of approval on the end of 58 broken dreams

BY STEPHEN FARRELL AND JOANNA BAILE

INFIDELITY, growing apart and concern for the children were among the causes given for 28 broken marriages listed in the High Court in London on the same day as the Duke and Duchess of York's.

Of 58 unhappy partners, the only one to appear in person at the three-minute hearing was Carlo Giambone, an unemployed mechanic and self-confessed adulterer from Notting Hill, London.

Mr Giambone, 28, objected to paying the costs of his wife's

petition from his £74 fortnightly benefit. Expecting an empty courtroom, he was bewildered to find the end of his seven-year marriage the subject of intense scrutiny.

He and his Greek-Cypriot wife Andriella, like the Yorks, stay in contact because of their sons Kristos, aged six, and Mario, nine months. Neither ever expects to marry again.

They met in a nightclub in the West End of London in 1987, married at Fulham Register Office two years later and celebrated properly at a traditional ceremony in Cyprus.

The honeymoon over, they re-

turned to Britain to conditions very different from the Yorks, living in a dingy one-bedroom flat.

"I had to sleep on the sofa, and my wife had a single bed in a bedroom that was no bigger than an ordinary bathroom. It took us two and a half years to get out of there, and by then things were not so good," he said.

Mr Giambone met another woman when his wife went on holiday in 1994, and he moved out.

Of the Duke and Duchess's divorce he said: "I can see a lot of similarities between our break-ups in that we both have children and we both remain friends. When you

have got kids involved you have to be friends. They are so clever they can sense if there is any animosity between the two of you.

"I was surprised at all the attention. I didn't realise Andrew and Fergie were on the same list as me. It was a big surprise, all the fuss, and all I wanted was a quiet day."

Mrs Giambone, 28, a social worker, described the early days of the marriage as "brilliant", but said her husband soon began to miss his single life. "Although he was very good at caring for his son he was never there for me." She said. "Prior to last month I hated

him because I was very, very bitter at what he had done. But at the end of the day you have to have some kind of relationship for the sake of the children.

"Andy and Fergie will also know by now that you have to work at a marriage. But I married one man twice and I would never marry another man again."

Andrew Rothery, a London accountant working for Arthur Andersen, petitioned his wife Korina for a quickie divorce after moving out of the family home in Sidcup, southeast London, in November 1993. He now lives in Lee, southeast London. Asked to state

briefly the reason for the separation, his affidavit said simply: "Very little time spent together due to work commitments, and we had no interests in common."

"It was difficult to agree on things and there were a lot of arguments. During November 1993 it became clear that neither of us was able to live happily together and it was unfair on the children to be surrounded by unhappiness, so we agreed to separate," the affidavit continued.

He yesterday refused to elaborate, insisting it was a private matter. "It is far too embarrassing to talk about."



Carlo Giambone: "All I wanted was a quiet day"

# Brussels officials reaching for small print to defend beef ban

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN STRASBOURG AND MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE European Commission brushed off Britain's legal challenge to the export ban on its beef yesterday but Brussels officials privately admitted that aspects of their case might not stand up in the European Court.

John Major is expected to press Britain's demands for an early lifting of the ban with Jacques Santer, the president of the European Commission, when they meet in Moscow later this week at the G7 nuclear safety summit. Mr Major requested the meeting in a letter sent to Mr Santer on Tuesday night.

"Mr Santer is very happy to talk to Mr Major and is very open to an exchange of views," a Commission spokesman said. "I think other heads of Government may well be involved. Mr Major will be heard by Mr Santer, but the Commission's position has been made very clear. We have a ban for which there is a legal basis and it will be for the European Court of Justice to deal with that matter."

In London, Welsh farmers

said they would take up arms to protect their herds against further culling of their cattle if that was Europe's price for removing the ban.

Leading a 250-strong delegation to lobby MPs at Westminster, Bob Parry, the president of the Farmers' Union of Wales, declared: "The European Commission has said that British beef is safe to eat, so why are we suffering? Our farmers are willing to protect their animals by getting guns if it is necessary."

In Strasbourg, Lamberto Dini, the Italian prime minister, said the ban on British

beef exports should be lifted when the scientific evidence showed that it was safe to do so. "We want the ban removed as soon as possible," he said.

Franz Fischler, the European Agriculture Commissioner, precipitated the British legal challenge by his statement last weekend that he would have no hesitation in eating British beef and his admission that the ban had been imposed in response to consumer panic and not on health grounds.

Gerard Kiely, Herr Fischler's spokesman, said there would be no reconsideration of the ban until Britain

had presented detailed proposals for eradicating "mad cow" disease from the national cattle herd.

There is doubt about the legality of an embargo based on preserving public confidence and saving the EU beef industry from collapse. Article 129 of the Maastricht treaty covers consumer protection but it allows only for "action which supports and supplements the policy pursued by the Member states to protect the health, safety and economic interests of consumers." In an apparent reflection of this, the Commission yesterday said that public health was the central issue.

Legal experts were also combing the EU's founding treaties to justify the ban on exports to non-EU countries. Officials repeated that this was to protect consumers from the re-importation of suspect British beef.

□ In France, Philippe Vasseur, the agriculture minister, accused Britain of renegeing on a commitment to carry out an extensive slaughter.

## French farmers to be compensated

The French Government is to pay compensation to the owners of 76,000 calves of British origin quarantined on French farms in the wake of the "mad cow" scare. The French Agriculture Minister Philippe Vasseur said that the animals would be destroyed over the next two or three months. French authorities have refused to allow calves of British origin into the country since March 28, following the British government's admission of a possible link between BSE and CJD.

# BSE deaths 'could be two million'

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY

A LEADING scientist alarmed and bewildered MPs yesterday with a barrage of statistics suggesting that the number of deaths from eating meat infected with "mad cow" disease could be as few as 10 or more than two million.

Dr Stephen Dealler, a consultant medical microbiologist, described the upper figure as "a worst-case scenario". He also said that the risk from eating beef now with new safeguards in place, was "absolutely minimal".

Dr Dealler offered the estimate at a joint session of the Commons Agriculture and Health Select committees called to consider the latest evidence on BSE and Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease, the counterpart condition in humans. Others giving evidence included Sir Kenneth Calman, the Government's Chief Medical Officer, Mr

Keith Meldrum, the Chief Veterinary Officer, and Professor John Pattison, head of the Government's advisory committee on BSE.

When Edward Leigh, Conservative MP for Gainsborough and Horncastle, and a self-professed beef-eater, pressed Dr Dealler to say what his own chances of contracting CJD from BSE-infected meat were, Dr Dealler replied, to laughter: "Between zero and 100 per cent."

Professor Pattison told the MPs that Dr Dealler's figures represented the "possible range of what might happen", but added: "The longer we go on without a significant rise in the number of CJD cases, the greater the chance that [the number of deaths caused by BSE] will be at the low end of the range. I do not think the risk is as high as Dr Dealler thinks. It would be very sur-

prising if there is no species barrier between cows and human beings. It would also be very surprising if [BSE] infection is ever found in muscle meat [as opposed to offal]."

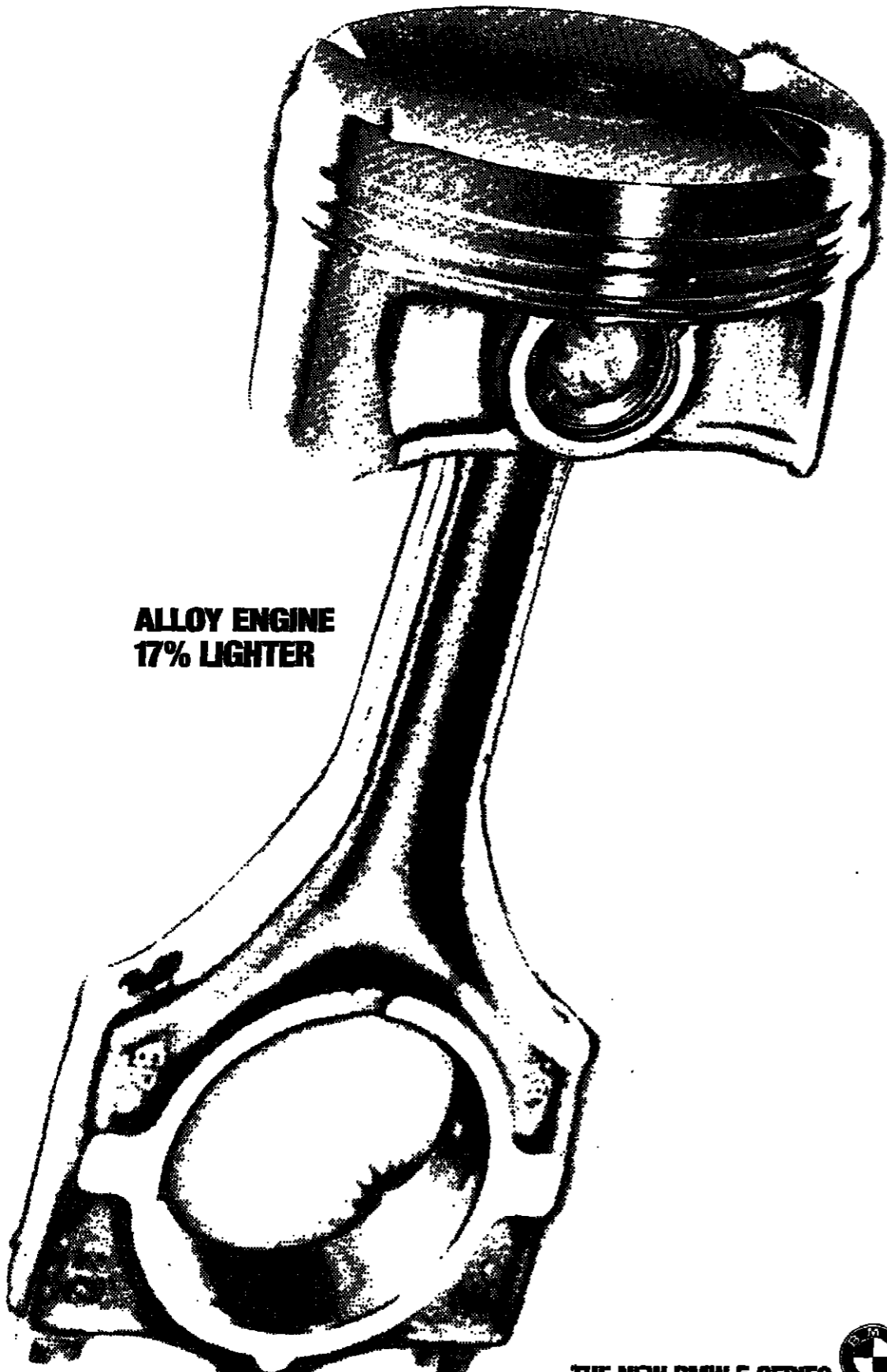
Dr Dealler said he had arrived at his estimates by looking at the potential times when people might have become infected and the number of infected cattle likely to have entered the food chain each year. He assumed that no one would have been infected after November, 1989, when the offal ban took effect.

The committee also heard evidence from Dr Harash Narang, a clinical virologist who formerly worked for the Public Health Laboratory Service in Newcastle upon Tyne, who claims to have made a breakthrough in developing a test to detect BSE in the urine of live cattle. Dr Narang, who

repeatedly clashed with Sir Kenneth and Mr Meldrum over his claims that the Government had obstructed his research, said: "The urine test, used on farms, could eradicate any remaining BSE by identifying cattle with the disease so that they could be removed."

The value of such a test is that it would avoid the need to destroy thousands of healthy animals merely to eliminate those with BSE. At present the disease can be confirmed definitively in cattle only by analysis of brain tissue after death.

Mr Meldrum said Dr Narang had failed to produce any evidence that his test worked. Sir Kenneth said Dr Narang's research had been taken seriously, but other scientists who had looked at earlier work of his on detecting nemavirus in brain tissue had been unable to repeat his experiments.



ALLOY ENGINE 17% LIGHTER

THE NEW BMW 5 SERIES



A CAR SUM O



FOR MORE INFO

A 'slight difference in divorce court's day

# A CAR GREATER THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARTS

Broken dreams



Teaching for and beef bar

Two million



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 0800 325600 OR <http://www.bmw.co.uk>

THE NEW BMW 5 SERIES



# Howard 'misused power' on Bulger killers' sentence

BY CAROL MIDGLEY

MICHAEL HOWARD misused his powers and pandered to popular public outrage when he ordered that the schoolboy killers of James Bulger be detained for at least 15 years, the High Court was told yesterday.

The Home Secretary "erred in law" by treating Jon Venables and Robert Thompson, then aged ten, as if they were adults when he increased their minimum sentence from ten to 15 years, taking no account of social and psychiatric reports.

Edward Fitzgerald, QC, for Venables, said Mr Howard had also used a petition with more than 270,000 names organised by the Bulger family and thousands of letters from the public calling for a longer sentence as a basis for his decision. "A judge would throw them in the bin if he received a series of petitions from the public saying, 'When you sentence so and so, make sure you give him 15 years,'" Mr Fitzgerald said. "What judge in the kingdom would say, 'I am going to pass a sentence of 15 years on a child



Lawyers for Thompson, left, and Venables say the Home Secretary did not consider their welfare

without social or psychiatric reports".

Lawyers for the boys, who admitted abducting two-year-old James and murdering him beside a railway line in Merseyside in 1993, are seeking a judicial review of the Home Secretary's decision.

Mr Fitzgerald told Lord Justice Pill, sitting with Mr Justice Newman, that there was no challenge to the correctness of the convictions or the sentence that both boys be

detained at Her Majesty's pleasure. The juveniles, now 12 and held at a secure unit in northern England, accepted responsibility "for the tragic death of their victim". But Mr Howard had wrongly exercised his discretion in requiring the boys to first serve a period of 15 years to "satisfy the requirements of retribution and general deterrence".

Mr Fitzgerald said the Home Secretary had misdirected himself that there was

no difference between a sentence of detention during Her Majesty's pleasure, imposed on juveniles, and a mandatory life term given to adult murderers. This was contrary to the tradition of every civilised country that children should be treated differently to adults.

The QC accused Mr Howard of taking over the classic judicial function of sentencing. "No other country would have a situation such as this where a child as young as ten can have a punitive sentence imposed by a politician," he said.

After their trial at Preston Crown Court, Mr Justice Morland recommended that Venables and Thompson be detained for a minimum of eight years. He said that eight years was "very, very many years for a ten-year-old. They are now children, then they will be young men." Lord Taylor of Gosforth, the Lord Chief Justice, increased the minimum to ten years before Mr Howard's decision. In the letter announcing the increase, Mr Howard made no mention of the boys' welfare or rehabilitation. Mr Fitzgerald told the court.

The case continues.



Wendy Jacobs with some of her new charges at Ewelme school yesterday

## New head ends 550 years of tradition

BY JOHN O'LEARY

WENDY JACOBS has swept away more than 500 years of tradition by landing the headship of Britain's oldest primary school. Mrs Jacobs, 34, a mother of two, is the first headmistress of Ewelme Primary School, in Oxfordshire, since its foundation in 1437.

The picturesque village school, with 40 pupils and two staff, claims the longest pedigree in primary education. Founded by Chaucer's granddaughter, teaching still takes place in the original buildings, beside a medieval church and almshouses.

Mrs Jacobs's appointment fulfils a career-long ambition. She first visited the school as a student at Reading University and was immediately drawn to the job when it fell vacant.

Barbara Blackley, who chairs the governors, said they had not hesitated to break with tradition. "It was obvious that Mrs Jacobs had very high standards and any children who are taught by her will be very lucky."

## Policemen save woman declared dead by doctor

BY PAUL WILKINSON

TWO policemen told yesterday of their shock when the leg of a woman pronounced dead by her doctor suddenly sprang to life. "I saw the left leg twitch and jump in the air and I was scared stiff," said PC Kevin Smith.

Last night Maureen Jones, 59, a diabetic mother of four grown-up children, was recovering in Scarborough Hospital after her ordeal. Dr Marion Meeson, her doctor, a GP with 16 years' experience, declined to comment.

PC Smith, 31, said the undertaker's hearse was already at the cottage in the Yorkshire Wolds village of Thwing, near Driffield, when he arrived last Monday night with PC Philip Shrimpton.

They went into the bedroom where Mrs Jones was lying face down on the floor. PC Shrimpton went to comfort relatives in the house when his colleague called him back to the bedroom.

PC Shrimpton, 36, said: "It was a frightening experience. To all intents Mrs Jones was pronounced dead and because of what happened we had to call into use our medical training." They gave her the kiss of life and applied heart massage. Mrs Jones was put into the recovery position until paramedics arrived.

No one had seen Mrs Jones, a widow, since the night

before and it was only when her son Nigel, 33, a shepherd, called at her home in the evening that he found her collapsed in an apparent diabetic coma. He called Dr Meeson at her surgery in Hunmanby three miles away and she turned out immediately.

But soon after her arrival, Dr Meeson, who qualified at the University of Wales in 1980, declared Mrs Jones dead and advised her son to report the incident to the police as a sudden death.

Mr Jones said his mother could remember only going to bed on Sunday night and waking up in hospital.



Maureen Jones: she remembered nothing

## WPC 'lost' eight years after arresting youth

A POLICEWOMAN lost all memory of the previous eight years after she was injured while arresting a drunken youth, a court was told yesterday. WPC Gaynor Whinton, 28, even forgot she was the mother of a two-year-old girl.

Stephen James, for the prosecution at Ilkerton Youth Court in Derbyshire, said WPC Whinton had a large bump on her head after helping colleagues to arrest the 17-year-old youth last June. In hospital she could not remember her name.

After the case WPC Whinton, who is still having

treatment for amnesia, said the injury had had a devastating effect on her life. She was particularly upset at losing precious memories of her first two years of motherhood. "Rebecca is three in June. I can remember seeing her in hospital when she was brought to see me. It was odd seeing her because I didn't feel like I was her mother because I didn't remember having her. If I could remember anything I would remember that."

The teenager pleaded guilty to assault while resisting arrest and was given four months' youth custody.



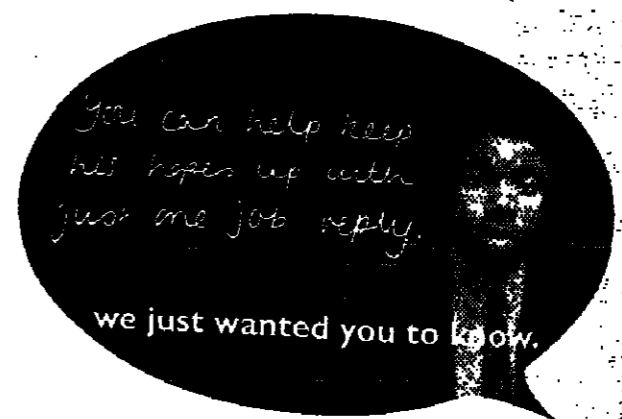
Some people have been giving British beef a roasting lately.

# Now it's your turn.

All British beef now produced is from cattle under 30 months old.

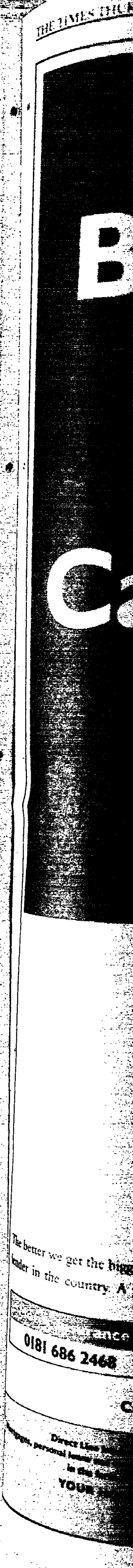
BRITISH MEAT Beef

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION, PO BOX 44, MILTON KEYNES MK6 1AX.



The Children's Society  
a little voice  
You can help. Call 0345 55 77 55

Charity Reg No 221174 Local 0345 5577 55 Reg 2626/18401

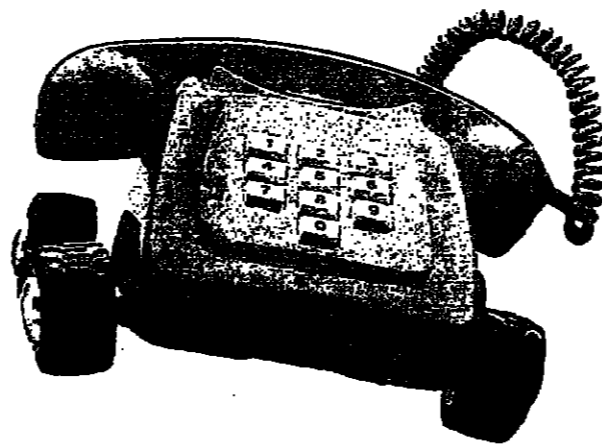




New he...  
ends S...  
years...  
tradit...

Policemen sa...  
woman declar...  
dead by doct...

# Building Society customer? Call the helplines below.



**DIRECT LINE**

The better we get the bigger we get. Britain's No.1 private motor insurer. Three quarters of a million home insurance customers. The fastest growing mortgage lender in the country. A personal loan agreed every three minutes. The UK's most innovative savings plan. Call Direct Line, we're waiting to help you.

<b>Motor Insurance</b> 0181 686 2468	<b>Home Insurance</b> 0181 686 8877	<b>Mortgages</b> 0181 649 9099	<b>Personal Loans</b> 0181 680 9966	<b>Savings</b> 0181 667 1121
---	--	-----------------------------------	--	---------------------------------

**CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday, quoting ref: CTI**

Direct Line Insurance plc, Direct Line House, 2 Edinboro Road, Droyden CR9 1AG. A member of the Association of British Insurers and of the Insurance Ombudsman Bureau.  
Mortgages, personal loans and savings provided by Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 250 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5SH. For mortgages life assurance to cover the amount of the loan and security in the form of a first legal charge (Standard Security Scotland) over the property will be required. Written quotations available on request. Offers subject to status.  
**YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.**  
For your added security all telephone calls will be recorded and the recording kept secure.  
Direct Line and the red telephone on wheels are the trade marks of Direct Line Insurance plc and used with the permission of Direct Line Insurance plc.

# Labour and Tories take aim in battle for town hall rule

BY JAMES LANDALE  
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE two main parties opened their council election campaigns yesterday by trading insults and contradictory statistics about their respective records in local government.

After last week's by-election defeat, the Tories face the prospect of a further drubbing in what will be the last and most important test of popular support before the general election. They could lose as many as 500 of the 1,100 council seats they are defending on May 2.

All these seats were won just after the Tories' 1992 general election victory, when they polled 45 per cent of the vote, about 15 per cent ahead of Labour. Support for the Government has since dropped to just 28 per cent.

"We are going from a high in 1992," a Tory source said. "In a way, that is coming back and wallowing us now."

However, opposition parties and election experts are playing down the prospect of a repeat of last year's Tory wipeout — when the party lost 2,000 seats — because this year's election is much smaller. In all, about 3,000 seats in 150 authorities are being contested: a third of the seats in 100 shire district authorities, 36 metropolitan district authorities and one unitary authority, Hartlepool. The 13 new shadow unitary authorities, which take over from present councils in April 1997, will hold elections for all their seats. There are no elections in London, Scotland or Wales.

As Labour and the Tories launched their campaigns yes-

## KEY CONTESTS

□ The four Tory councils in the elections: Huntingdonshire in the Prime Minister's constituency, Broxbourne in Hertfordshire, Macclesfield in Cheshire and Runnymede in Surrey.

□ Three hung councils targeted by the Liberal Democrats: Tunbridge Wells in Kent, Wokingham in Berkshire and Stratford-on-Avon in Warwickshire.

□ The former Tory stronghold of Basildon in Essex, now a hung council.

□ The shadow unitary authority of Brighton and Hove. Labour won Hove Borough Council last year.

terday, both parties refused to give detailed predictions of their chances. But Tony Blair, the Labour leader, said his party's "success on May 2 will be another blow to a weak and incompetent Government".

Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, admitted: "There is certainly a challenge facing the party. I have made no secret of that."

A key Tory charge during the campaign will be that voters pay 50 per cent higher council taxes under Labour-controlled authorities. Dr Mawhinney said that in Band D houses, valued between £68,000 and £88,000, Labour charged £225 more than Tory councils. Liberal Democrat councils charged £139 more in the same band.

Frank Dobson, the Shadow Environment Secretary, dismissed the claim. He said that in the 39 councils that Labour won last year, the average

council tax rise was 6 per cent, well below the Government's forecast of 8 per cent. He also cited figures backed by the Audit Commission showing that the average council tax charged by Tory authorities was £536, compared with the £513 figure for Labour. "The Tories will seek to blame Labour for the council tax increases but local people know that the Government must shoulder most of the blame," he said.

Labour's campaign will focus on the quality of services, value for money and partnership between private and public sectors that the party says is provided by its authorities. Mr Blair said: "The people have lost their trust in the Government. I am confident that the local elections will show that people are placing their trust in new Labour."

The tenor of what will be a bitter campaign was evident when the Tories used piles of baked-bean tins to illustrate the higher council taxes in opposition authorities. Labour, the Tories said, were "has-beans" and the Liberal Democrats were "half-baked". Dr Mawhinney said: "We, however, are full of beans."

Ron Watson, chairman of the Tories' national local government advisory committee, said he saw a new determination among Tory activists to fight the elections hard. They would highlight the difference between Labour's national image and the reality they saw on the ground, where the trade unions were still dominant. "Most Labour councillors are unreconstructed socialists," he said.

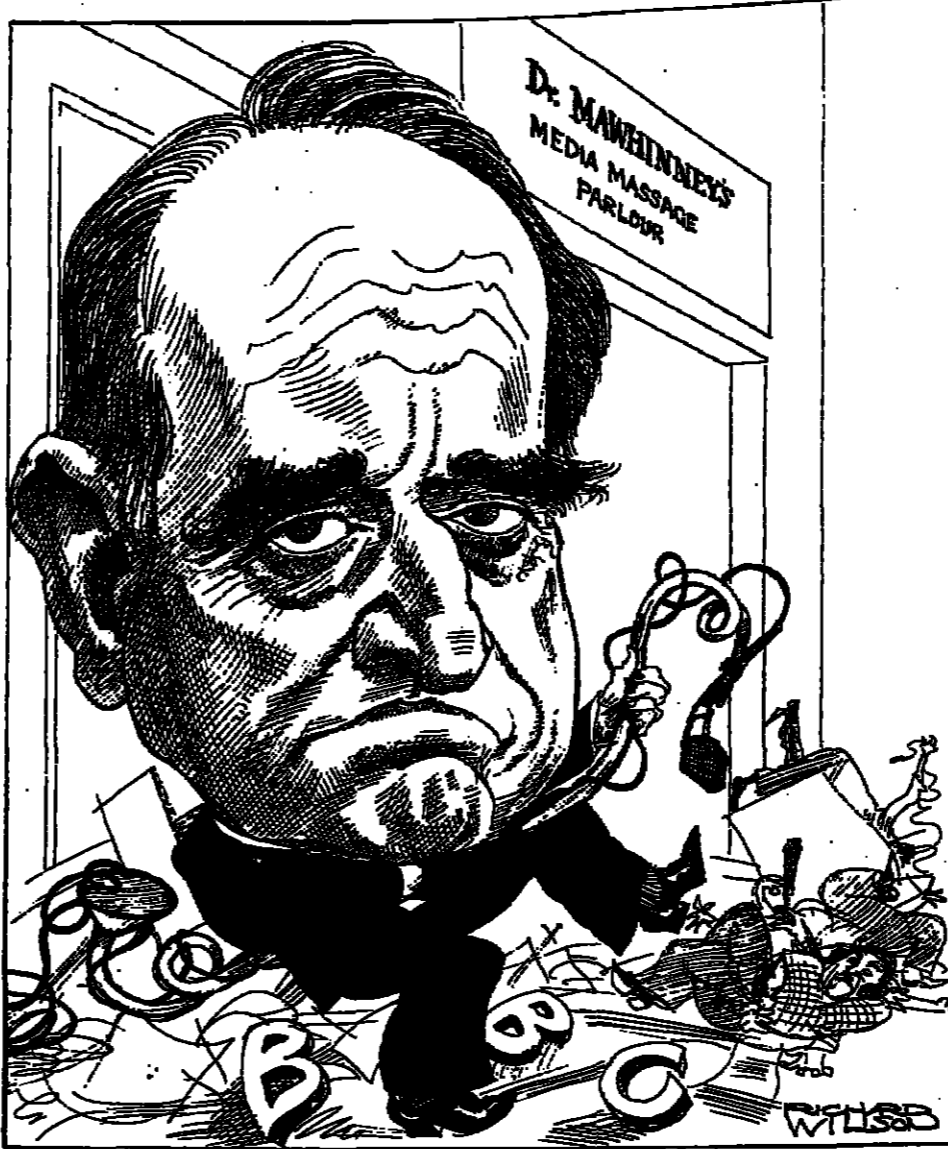
Photograph, page 24

## This is no way to win back the voters

Brian Mawhinney's attack on Sue MacGregor on the *Today* programme yesterday was unjustified, exaggerated and, even worse, politically inept. But that is symptomatic of the nervousness and stridency among some at Conservative Central Office. They are adopting the wrong approach to win back the many voters who have deserted the Tories since the last election. Dr Mawhinney's outburst also ensured that attention was distracted from a highly significant raising of the standard of traditional Labour values by Robin Cook.

Attacking the *Today* programme is an easy, and shallow, way to win applause from Tory loyalists, who suspect the BBC and many of its interviewees of being dedicated to doing down the Government. But not only is it ludicrous to regard the scrupulously fair Ms MacGregor in this light, but her question drawing a parallel with 1990 and asking whether the Tories now needed to take similarly drastic action was entirely fair. Of course, John Major is not about to be "dumped" and, unlike a year ago, there is no speculation about the leadership now. It would be suicidal of the Tories even to contemplate such a coup. But Dr Mawhinney was wrong to regard the question as "sneaky" as if the issue is not politically relevant.

Of course, his attack is part of an elaborate exercise of trying to influence the broadcasters, and especially the BBC. Tory officials feel Labour secures more favourable coverage by constantly intervening with executives and programme editors. Labour certainly puts pressure on the broadcasters, but I do not



believe this produces a bias in news coverage favour of Labour, as the Tories claim.

Much of the endless discussion about "spin-doctors", one of those often quoted terms which mean little, confuses attempts by the parties to influence coverage with bias by the broadcasters in favour of one party or another. Most broadcasters, as well as print journalists, listen to what the party propagandists say and ignore the more obviously partisan parts. The Tories' problem is the less specific, though equally insidious, one that Tony Blair has become fashionable, rather as Harold Wilson was

## RIDDELL ON POLITICS

in 1963-64, while the Major Government is unfashionable.

The Tory faithful in the shires and the suburbs who believe that the media, and the BBC in particular, are being unfair to them will cheer Dr Mawhinney. They will feel he is speaking up for Middle England Tories. But making your core supporters feel good, or at least self-satisfied, is not the way to win elections. The Tories need to appeal to the uncommitted and they will not do that by stridency. Sounding reasonable rather than aggressive is the way to win back former supporters.

Such attacks underline the impression of a party that is in a jittery mood after the Staffordshire South-East by-election and ahead of the local elections in a fortnight. Even in the short-term, Dr Mawhinney's outburst was counter-productive — and was

seen as such by some other senior Tories — not least since it diverted attention from Mr Cook's speech to the Scottish TUC conference.

Mr Cook will be one of the most powerful figures in any Labour Government and, yesterday, he signalled that the party's traditional concerns with poverty and equality had not been forgotten. Nothing he said could justify stories about a split with Mr Blair. There is no difference on the details of policy. But the tone was very different from, say, Mr Blair's speech in New York a week ago. Mr Cook talked about trade union rights and public services in language that the Labour leader now does not use.

If Mr Blair is claiming the centre ground, Mr Cook is securing the left wing. But despite Mr Major's comments last night, the Tories seem mainly concerned with their right wing — forgetting that it is the centre which they have to reclaim.

PETER RIDDELL

With *Jazz Greats* you can lie back and relax with some of the greatest jazz musicians of all time. Each fortnight it brings you an hour of music from a jazz legend on CD or cassette. Each carefully chosen track has been digitally re-mastered to let you hear the music as it was meant to be heard, while the accompanying magazine looks at their life and times, highlights key moments in the history of jazz and puts their work in context, giving you an insight into some of this century's greatest musicians.



In part one read *Billie Holiday's* harrowing tale of prostitution and drugs. Follow her path from poor servant to jazz siren as you listen to masterpieces like *Strange Fruit* and *Summertime*.

Featuring such masters as *Louis Armstrong*, *Duke Ellington*, *Fats Waller*, *Ella Fitzgerald*, spanning New Orleans Ragtime to bebop and latino, *Jazz Greats* builds into the ultimate collection of the world's jazz music.

"Their lives, their times, but most of all their music."



# jazz greats

Issue one only £1.99 at all good newsagents.

<http://www.mcmedia.com> A Marshall Cavendish Leisure Collection

## Short tells investors to be wary of rail sell-off

BY ANDREW PIERCE  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TORY attempts to embarrass Clare Short over her support for higher taxes for middle-income earners fizzled out yesterday. Only a dozen Tory MPs were in the chamber for the Shadow Transport Secretary's first Commons speech since being criticised by Labour spin-doctors.

Ms Short, opening a debate on the sale of Railtrack, took the sparsely attended Tory benches by surprise when she declared: "I would like to say a word on tax."

To cheer from her own back benches, she said: "The cost of privatising the railways amounts to an extra £106.38 for every taxpayer in the country. This is equal to an extra 1p on the basic rate of income tax."

Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, compared Ms Short with Harriet Harman, the Shadow Health Secretary, who had defied Labour policy by sending her son to a grammar school. He said: "The one is endorsed for acting like a Tory, the other rebuked for speaking like a socialist."

Ms Short urged wavering Tory MPs to support Labour's



Short: survived Tory taunts over tax row

amendment calling on the halt of the sale in the first test of the Government's strength since its majority was reduced to one. She said that potential investors should be aware that a Labour government would use the regulator to impose controls on railway investment and asset disposal. "The use of regulation to protect the national interest will change the likely rate of return to shareholders."

Brian Wilson, a Labour transport spokesman, referred to a leaked letter on April 2 from John Welsby, the British Rail chairman, who said that the prospectus was "misleading and deficient". No alter-

ation had been made. Mr Wilson said: "A Stock Exchange inquiry is required to find what the truth of the matter is."

Sir George said that the directors of Railtrack had a duty to ensure that the prospectus was in accordance with the facts. "I'm confident that the prospectus which issues on May 1 will fully satisfy those requirements."

He was scornful of Labour's alternative to privatisation, higher investment without saying where the money would come from. "Perhaps from higher taxes on MPs? Under a privatised railway, the costs of funding the investment will no longer fall on the taxpayer. Privatisation would reverse decades of decline. "It's a win-win situation."

## IN PARLIAMENT

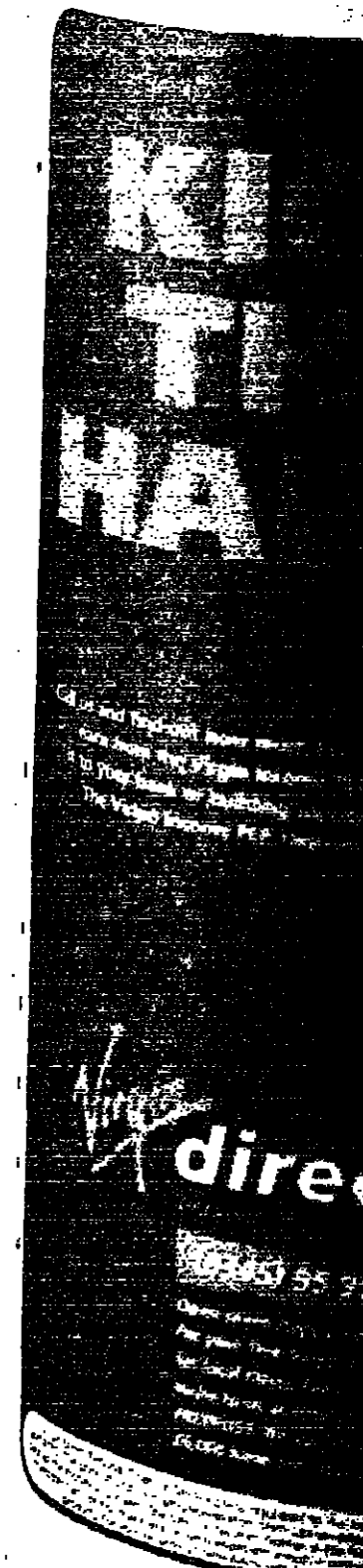
YESTERDAY in the Commons: backbench debates; trade and industry questions; rail privatisation. In the Lords: questions to cut recurring unemployment benefit credit; Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill; committee: Disabled Persons and Cases; Short-term British Bill, second reading. TODAY in the Commons: questions to Treasury ministers and the Deputy Prime Minister, standing in for John Major; Northern Ireland (Entry to Negotiations) Bill; second reading; backbench debates on the Commonwealth Institute. In the Lords: Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Bill; report; Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill, committee.

A philosophy that reflects concern for the future

# With a Canon fax machine you can even use recycled paper

Canon's philosophy is to create products that are not only functional but also environmentally friendly. Our fax machines are designed to be used with recycled paper, helping to reduce the impact on the environment. We believe it is a responsibility of every company to care for the planet. Our products are designed to be durable and reliable, ensuring that you can use them for years to come. We are committed to providing you with the best possible quality and performance. Our fax machines are easy to use and offer a wide range of features to meet your needs. We are confident that you will find our products to be a valuable addition to your office. For more information call us free on 0500 246 246. If anyone can Canon can.

Stand-in dismisses Skye toll





SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



Does your dog need a personal trainer?

Frances Bissell on cross-cultural cooking

Derwent May on good news for bird lovers

How to win a Philippe Starck chair

# New research backs syndrome claims by Gulf War veterans

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A COMBINATION of chemicals used to protect soldiers from nerve gas and desert insects during the 1991 war with Iraq could have caused neurological damage, according to new research into the so-called Gulf War syndrome.

Gulf War veterans in Britain said yesterday the American research was the "next step" towards providing conclusive proof of the existence of a war-related syndrome.

The possible explanation for sicknesses suffered by thousands of British and American Gulf War veterans follows research into the effects of a cocktail of chemicals on chickens. The researchers found that although individual doses of the chemicals had no side effects, even in far larger amounts than those given to soldiers, when administered together they proved highly toxic.

The combination of two pesticides, DEET and permethrin, and the anti-nerve

gas agent pyridostigmine bromide, caused neurological problems in the chickens similar to the symptoms found in around 30,000 American Gulf War veterans. The symptoms include memory loss, headaches, fatigue, muscle and joint pain, shortness of breath and tremors.

The research by scientists at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre in Dallas, is being presented this week at the Federation of American Societies of Experimental Biology and will be published next month in the *Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health*.

Dr Mohamed Abou-Donia, a pharmacologist at Duke University, said that the chemicals were used to protect the soldiers from diseases such as malaria and leishmaniasis, which could have caused thousands of deaths.

However, he said: "It app-

ears that, for some veterans, the precautions prevented one set of problems and created another. Now our task is to analyse the veterans' symptoms by investigating all the potential causes, not only for their sakes but for the welfare of future soldiers."

Dr Abou-Donia admitted the study on chickens did not prove the chemical cocktail affected people. However, his partners at the University of Texas had carried out epidemiological studies on soldiers which were consistent with the animal data, he said. The Texas scientists declined to release their results until the research was published.

The Gulf Veterans' Association in Britain said the Ministry of Defence had so far failed to carry out specific research and had merely completed a clinical study. A spokeswoman added that the committee of experts brought in to pursue further studies did not include a neurologist.



BBC producer Ric Blaxill with newcomer Bear van Beers, who bombarded him with calls and videos

## Bear cheek takes unknown straight to the top

A MODEL from Holland is to present the TV chart show *Top of the Pops* tonight after months of bombarding a BBC producer with phone calls, faxes and videos of her work (Alexandra Frean writes). She is the first "unknown" to host the 32-year-old programme.

Bear van Beers, 23, has appeared in a

number of commercials and minor Dutch TV shows, but said it had been her life-long ambition to appear on *Top of the Pops*: "I have watched it ever since I was a little girl. I love it."

The programme's producer, Ric Blaxill, finally decided to give her a chance after tonight's scheduled present-

er, Lisa l'Anson, had to pull out. "I could tell she had the attitude, looks, intelligence and personality," he said. "When I called her home in Holland she couldn't believe it." Miss van Beer speaks four languages, studied journalism in Los Angeles and is studying film and television arts in Amsterdam.

## Stand-in sheriff dismisses 'trivial' Skye toll offences

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

SKYE BRIDGE protesters who pleaded guilty to non-payment of tolls were admonished yesterday and let off by a sheriff who told them that their offences were so trivial that they did not merit an appearance in his court.

Sheriff Ian Cameron, standing in for Sheriff James Fraser at Dingwall Sheriff Court, told 170 protesters that their cases should really be heard in the lower district court. He said he was not interested in the political aspects of the case but only in the criminality of the non-payment.

His leniency surprised the protesters, who had been told by Sheriff Fraser that each non-payment of the £4.30 toll would attract a £30 fine.

Sheriff Cameron told Allan MacDonald, 63, a retired Skye headmaster: "These are trivial sums involved. It's a bit like the non-payment of TV licences but not so serious."

He admonished Mr MacDonald on all three offences. Twelve others who pleaded guilty got the same lenient treatment. Most of the protesters maintained their not-guilty pleas at the intermediate hearing. They will be summoned for trial next month.

The protesters have cari-

paigned vigorously against the tolls for the £25 million bridge, which was opened in October and funded by the private sector. Some have crossed the bridge on dozens of occasions without paying.

The charges against them have been brought under the New Roads and Streets Act 1991 and carry a maximum penalty of £1,000 per offence, or a jail sentence.

One protester, Andy Anderson, 57, from Skye, has already been fined £150 after being found guilty of five offences by Sheriff Fraser. He has appealed to the High Court in Edinburgh.

The protesters had been angered by a decision to summon them in person to the court for them to reaffirm their pleas but yesterday Sheriff Cameron only laughed when he heard that one protester had been unable to keep the appointment.

After the hearing, Myrna Scott Moncrieff, who is leading the protest, said: "I am surprised at the outcome. I'm glad the rest of us stood firm and resisted the temptation to plead guilty and get off with only being admonished. However, Sheriff Cameron seems like a very reasonable man."

The new Club World larder. Corporate raiders welcome.



Although you may fly on our schedule your appetite may be on another. That's why we've introduced raid-the-larder, full of treats and goodies for non-stop nibbling. No wonder more people are now flying on new Club World.

BRITISH AIRWAYS  
The world's favourite airline

Call us and find out how much tax-free income you can earn from the Virgin Income PER. Then compare it to your bank or building society deposit account.

The Virgin Income PER. High income. Low risk.

direct

(0345) 95 95 95

Open seven days a week from 8am to 10pm. For your free Virgin Income PER pack, call us on 0345 95 95 95. We'll call you back at the nearest time to you. Write to us, Virgin Direct, PO Box 161, BIFFENWOOD, WALSLEY, WF1 6ER.

© Virgin Group 1996. Investment.

Virgin Direct Personal Financial Services Ltd is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority (PIA). The price of units and any income from them can go down as well as up. You may not get back all the money you invest. The level of any charge in this notice. Virgin Direct does not offer insurance advice. For more information about investments, visit our website. We only accept full time investors. For your security, all telephone calls to Virgin Direct will be recorded.

s investors of rail sell-o

Can't... you can... paper

# 'Apologise or quit' call to heritage chief who mocked patrons

BY DALYA ALBERGE ARTS CORRESPONDENT

AN eminent figure in the art world yesterday urged Virginia Bottomley to seek the resignation of Sir Jocelyn Stevens as chairman of English Heritage unless he apologised publicly for mocking patrons of London's Kenwood House as "people with too much time".

Sir Hugh Leggan expressed outrage that Sir Jocelyn had insulted people who selflessly devoted themselves to the nation's heritage. He said: "He's behaved disgracefully." Sir Hugh is a former commissioner for the Museums and Galleries Commission, and honorary adviser to the national portrait galleries of England and Scotland. He was responding to comments made last Sunday by Sir Jocelyn after the Friends of Kenwood House expressed concern that English Heritage had neglected its responsibilities for the historic building on Hampstead Heath. They called for a full-time curator to be reinstated, arguing that one of the nation's most important collections of Old Masters, including works by Vermeer and Rembrandt, set in a Robert Adam interior, needed full-time attention.

Hours after a unanimous motion was passed by the Friends, Sir Jocelyn dismissed them as troublemakers with "too much spare time", and added: "We don't actually



Sir Hugh, left, and Sir Jocelyn: knock-on effect

need the Friends if they're going to behave like this." Yesterday Sir Hugh said that it was "very distasteful" of Sir Jocelyn to have singled out Lord Hutchinson, QC, and George Levy, a leading antiques dealer, who are respected throughout the art world for their passionate commitment to heritage.

"Sir Jocelyn attacked them as 'people with plenty of spare time' who 'have got used to the impression that they run Kenwood' and said: 'The Friends are not behaving in a very aggressive manner.'"

The family of Edward Cecil Guinness, the 1st Earl of Iveagh (1847-1927), who bequeathed the collection to the nation, is known to be "very upset and deeply concerned about the way that Kenwood is being run. Sir Hugh said: 'He shouldn't have attacked the very people who care so

much. Even if he does have a difference of opinion, he should talk about it. Unless he apologises, the Minister should ask him to resign. It is Virginia Bottomley's job to oversee such matters."

Beyond Kenwood, he said, Sir Jocelyn's remarks could do untold damage to the voluntary sector on which every arts institute relies heavily. "It isn't just Kenwood he's letting down. It is so difficult raising funds. These institutions desperately need Friends. Hundreds of people up and down the country give their services and their cash to help the national, local authority and university institutions. They need to be encouraged, not discouraged. Such comments have a knock-on effect."

"Gratuitous public criticism from the chairman of English Heritage is both shocking and counter-productive. As chairman of such an important quango, an immediate public apology is vital."

The Heritage Minister should not only dissociate herself from Sir Jocelyn's aggressive structures, but make it clear that the Government is wholly supportive of individuals who give so much to help preserve our national patrimony."

A spokeswoman for English Heritage said: "We don't feel there is anything for the chairman to apologise about."

Diary, page 20



A computer-created view from Lambeth Bridge of how the giant £10 million Ferris wheel would look

## Traditionalists try to put a spoke in London's millennium wheel

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

TRADITIONALISTS and modernists from the architectural world clashed yesterday over the proposed siting of a 500ft Ferris wheel on the South Bank in London to celebrate the millennium.

Plans for the £10 million structure were condemned by Lord St John of Fawsley, chairman of the Royal Fine Arts Commission, as "wholly unsuitable" for the riverside location, almost opposite the Palace of Westminster.

He said: "The 500ft-diameter wheel will be a third as high again as the Shell Centre, virtually twice the height of Big Ben and approximately the height of the British Telecom Tower. It would have a damaging visual impact on the Royal Parks,

the surrounding Grade I listed buildings and the World Heritage Site of Westminster Abbey and the House of Parliament."

However, two of Britain's most distinguished architects, Sir Richard Rogers and Sir Norman Foster, and the designer Sir Terence Conran were positive. Sir Terence said: "Cities need big symbols and the wheel seems to have all the fizz that the millennium is supposed to have."

Detailed plans for the wheel, described as London's Eiffel Tower, were unveiled yesterday by British Airways, which is sponsoring the project and putting more than £600,000 into the scheme.

The wheel, which will be the highest of its kind in the world, would dominate the central London skyline from

its Jubilee Gardens site close to the South Bank arts centre.

It would carry up to 2,500 passengers an hour at 55 a head in 60 enclosed capsules passing within yards of the site of a new luxury hotel being developed at the front of County Hall, the former GLC headquarters. From the top of the 20-minute ride, passengers would be able to see for 30 miles, from Luton in the north to Tumbidge Wells in the south. It would dominate the riverscape for at least five years before being moved to a new site.

Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, gave his blessing to the project but said the wheel should be moved away from County Hall so that it did not impede the view of the Grade II listed building. The

planning committee of Lambeth Borough Council is unlikely to meet to consider the application before June. The final decision is likely to rest with the Secretary of State for the Environment.

David Marks and Julia Barfield, the architects behind the project, hope to start work on the wheel before the end of the year with an opening ceremony in April 1999. More than half the energy to drive the ride could be generated by tidal power from turbines in the Thames. The steel structure has been designed to withstand winds as strong as any recorded in London over the past hundred years.

Bob Ayling, chief executive of British Airways, said: "It will be for the millennium what the Crystal Palace was for the 1851 Great Exhibition."

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Pilot held after drugs discovered

The pilot of a light aircraft whose passenger was critically injured by its propeller after an emergency landing has been arrested on suspicion of smuggling drugs. The Cheetah aircraft, flying from Hottel to Gloucestershire on Tuesday, came down in a field near Basingstoke, Hampshire. A box containing 20kg of cannabis worth £60,000 was found near by. Customs officials could not say if the two events were connected.

#### Burns boy dies

A three-year-old boy, who survived for two months after suffering 94 per cent burns, has died. Adam McKeivie was found inside his burnt-out home in Corby, Northamptonshire, on February 10. His mother died in the blaze.

#### Fraud charge

Inspector David Currie, 36, and Tracey Kember, 24, a police worker, from Gravesend, denied conspiracy to defraud Sainsbury's by allegedly tendering outdated vouchers. Bail for both was continued by Maidstone Crown Court.

#### Inquest refused

A coroner has refused a full inquest into the deaths of six crew of a trawler that sank off Cornwall in 1991. He said all the evidence was aired when one of the *Pescado's* operators was cleared and another convicted of manslaughter.

#### Driver's plunge

A motorist drove to his death over the 80ft Marsden Bay cliffs on south Tyneside after apparently phoning police to say he was going to jump. Officers saw a car speed over the edge into the sea. A man's body was later recovered.

#### Line of inquiry

A signalling error has been blamed for an electric InterCity train with 200 passengers being stranded for 83 minutes on a non-electrified line outside Basingstoke, Hampshire, on Tuesday. Rail-track is holding an inquiry.

#### Jurors warned

Mr Justice Curtis warned jurors at the Old Bailey to ignore extensive media reports over the death of Stephen Lawrence, 18, whose parents have brought a private murder prosecution against three men. The trial continues.

#### Talked out

Gary Jacobs, a lawyer who hosted a Sunday night show on Talk Radio, has resigned after being asked to include advice on gardening, DIY and motoring. His departure comes after that of Simon Bates and Jonathan King.

**HURRY! LAST 5 DAYS! OFFERS MUST END 24TH APRIL**

UP TO **45% OFF** & **A TALL FRIDGE/FREEZER FOR ONLY £199.99**

**KITCHEN CABINETS**

WHEN YOU BUY 3 OR MORE

**CHOOSE FROM 47 SUPERB KITCHEN STYLES**

**Schreiber** PERFORMANCE: This lovely kitchen will always stand the test of time. It features a superb solid oak upper frame with raised veneer centre panels and for that typical touch of Schreiber style, beautiful antiqued metal handles and backplates.

**COMPLETE 8 CABINET KITCHEN\***

INCLUDING A TALL FRIDGE FREEZER & GREAT CABINETS, OVEN, HOB AND EXTRACTOR, SINK, TAPS AND WORKTOPS

**FOR ONLY £1382.81**

**LOW COST FIT ON ALL KITCHENS**

**KITCHEN CABINETS GUARANTEED 20% LESS THAN ANY OTHER NATIONAL RETAILER'S QUOTE**

**MFI**

More Furniture Ideas

SHOPPING HOURS: Mon 10-6, Tues 10-6, Wed 10-6, Thurs 10-6, Fri 10-6, Sat 9-6, Sun 11-5 (except Southampton 10-4). Northern Ireland: Mon 10-6, Tues 10-6, Wed 10-6, Thurs 10-6, Fri 10-6, Sat 9-6, Sun 12-6. PHONE free pages 0500 192 192 FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE.

## Sell-off revives Church assets

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Church of England has sold buildings worth millions of pounds to repair the damage done by property speculation in the 1980s. The sales, and a tightly controlled investment strategy, mean the Church has almost fully recovered from its £800 million losses on the property market.

The MetroCentre in Gateshead has been sold for an £80 million profit, as well as the Marlows shopping centre in Hemel Hempstead and Beechwood Place in Cheltenham. In America the Commissioners, who manage the Church's assets, have sold office buildings and development land for more than book value.

increased by £300 million in 1995 to £2.7 billion. Property assets fell from 58 to 39 per cent of the total.

Last year the Commissioners sold 2,957 acres of land in Britain for £22.8 million, of which more than half was development land. Residential sales totalled £15.9 million, mainly long leases on the Hyde Park estate in London. One hundred and nine vicarages were sold, a slight decline on 1994. Many acres of glebe land, managed by dioceses and usually rented out, were also sold, generating £16.6 million. However, £6.6 million was reinvested in glebe land and £2 million in clergy housing. A further £25.8 million was raised by selling redundant churches and sites. The Commissioners reported a "short-term" fall in net income, from £145.2 million in 1994 to £137.4 million.

**CARE-FREE**

**FREE FIVE YEAR PARTS & LABOUR COVER WORTH UP TO £120**

This promotion runs from 1st April - 31st May 1996 on all new purchases of Miele laundry products, dishwashers, refrigeration and built-in cooking appliances.

Contact 01235 554488 for full details and Miele Stockists.

Includes one year's manufacturer's guarantee and four years' extended warranty. This offer does not affect your statutory rights. \*Conditional on purchase of Miele Double Cover and Double Cover Plus essential warranty schemes for washer dryer. This promotion does not include Miele vacuum cleaners.

**Miele**

### Songb...



### The naked males a...

**WATERPROOF WINDPROOF BREATHABLE**

ALL WEATHER CLOTHING

Last 1000 the new



In ten years, common bird populations have plummeted. They include, left to right, song thrush (down 73 per cent), linnet (52 per cent), skylark (58 per cent), grey partridge (82 per cent), tree sparrow (89 per cent) and turtle dove (77 per cent)

# Songbirds fall silent under onslaught of farming and pollution

By NICK NUTTALL  
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

MILLIONS of songbirds are disappearing from gardens and the countryside, the victims of intensive farming, pollution and building. A detailed survey of the 280 species found in the British Isles — including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man — has found that the decline of birds such as the skylark, linnet, song thrush and tree sparrow has accelerated during the 1990s.

Ten years ago, eight birds were on the nation's red list of vulnerable species. Dr David Gibbons of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said yesterday that it had since been necessary to add many once-common birds to the danger list, swelling the number to 36.

Some less well-loved birds have increased in number, partly because fewer people are working in the countryside, which makes them less likely to be shot as pests. Among them is the magpie, up 268 per cent since the 1960s to 650,000 pairs, and the carrion crow, up 140 per cent to a million pairs.

The report has been compiled by the RSPB, the National Trust, the British Trust for Ornithology, the Game Con-



Not all bird species are in decline. Among a number of success stories are, left to right, the osprey, red kite, Dartford warbler and marsh harrier

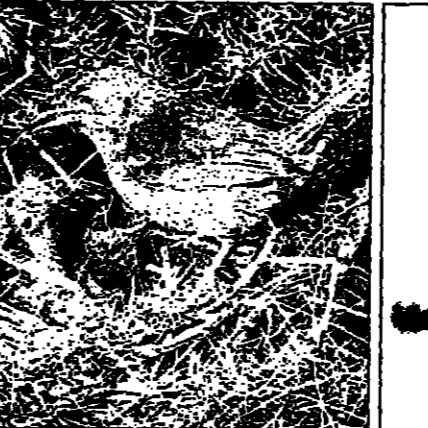
servancy Council, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, the wildlife trusts, Birdlife International and the Hawk and Owl Trust.

They find that ten years ago the status of the spotted flycatcher gave little cause for alarm. The survey shows that numbers have slumped by 73 per cent in the past 25 to 27 years to 130,000 pairs. Indications are that at least 23 per cent



Not all bird species are in decline. Among a number of success stories are, left to right, the osprey, red kite, Dartford warbler and marsh harrier

this decline has occurred since the late 1980s. The skylark population is down 58 per cent to 21 million pairs; the grey partridge 82 per cent to 145,000 pairs; the tree sparrow 89 per cent to 110,000 pairs; the turtle dove 77 per cent to 75,000 pairs; the song thrush 73 per cent to 1.1 million pairs; and the linnet 52 per cent to 540,000 pairs.



Not all bird species are in decline. Among a number of success stories are, left to right, the osprey, red kite, Dartford warbler and marsh harrier

Dr Gibbons said: "The chances of seeing these birds in your garden are now far less than they were a few years ago because less are surviving in the countryside, especially on farmland."

Dr Mark Avery, chairman of the RSPB's Birds of Conservation Concern Working Group, said: "The fate of bird species acts as a barometer of the health of the environment. There are now more than twice as many species which are



Not all bird species are in decline. Among a number of success stories are, left to right, the osprey, red kite, Dartford warbler and marsh harrier

rapidly declining than there were ten years ago. Things are getting worse rather than better."

He said intensification of agriculture was largely to blame: it was destroying habitats, increasing pollution, crushing some ground-nesting birds' eggs during the breeding season, and altering the availability of food.

traffic have also taken their toll, as has the spread of housing, particularly in the South of England.

While the future for songbirds looks bleak, other species, many on the red list, have benefited from measures taken on their behalf. They include programmes of reintroduction from the Continent, better protection against persecution and egg thieves and more sensitive management of conifer woodlands. Milder winters have also helped.

The red kite has increased from 20 pairs to 160; the osprey from seven to 99; and the Dartford warbler from 560 to 1,600. Since 1969, marsh harriers have increased from three pairs to 100, thanks to the elimination of DDT and immigration from The Netherlands, where land reclamation hit the birds' habitat.

The songbird survey precedes the Government's response to the Biodiversity Steering Group report, published earlier in the year, which set out costed action plans to restore numbers of the most threatened species. The authors of the bird survey are urging the Government to ratify the steering group's report in an attempt to head off a fatal collapse in Britain's songbird population.

# The naked truth: fat and lazy males are winning the rat race

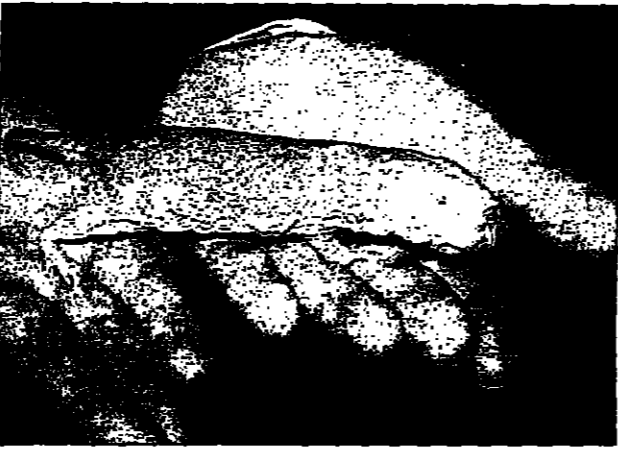
By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

BEING a selfish, lazy, fat male need not be a handicap. According to a new study, these are the very qualities that make for a sense of adventure — if you are a naked mole rat.

This mammal, which fascinates biologists because it lives more like an insect, is found beneath the soil of East Africa. Naked mole rats — which are neither moles nor rats — dig out complex burrows where they establish colonies in which only the queen bears young.

About three inches long and weighing one or two ounces, they belong to the same zoological classification as porcupines, guinea pigs, chinchillas and corydons. Those with the most unappealing characteristics are most likely to found new colonies, a study in South Africa has found. Their fatness, indeed, may help them to survive until a new colony is established.

Like bees and ants, naked mole rats have a strict division of labour. Most of them spend their time digging to find food for the rest of the colony. They live on tubers, accessible only when the ground is wet after rain. Only by collaborating can they find enough food.



The naked mole rat: "ugly but magnificent"

Mole rat colonies are deeply inbred. Among animals, they are the nearest thing to a clone, as genetically alike as identical twins. But Dr Justin O'Rain and his colleagues at Cape Town University have found that there are a few who stand out from the crowd. These are the "dispersers" — the few inspired to leave the burrow for pastures new.

Normal mole rats are hostile to those from other colonies, but the dispersers have higher levels of hormones than their burrow-mates and try to mate with strange females. Within the colony, the dispersers collaborate only reluctantly with the

colonies had any dispersers and 95 per cent of them were male. What triggers the wanderlust is not clear. It may be genetic or it may be the age and composition of the colonies, the team says. The chances are that from time to time environmental conditions may promote dispersals in which the adventurous rats invade neighbouring colonies or find a few allies to form a new colony.

Sending out alone is remarkable for one of these animals because, unlike other mammals, they do not have a way of regulating their temperature. When they get cold, the only recourse is to huddle together three or four deep. This may be another reason why the dispersers tend to be fat, to protect them from the cold in solitude.

The limited sex lives of mole rats and the fact that they live permanently in the dark means that they have never needed to develop features that would attract mates. But beauty is in the eye of the zoologist. Dr Paul Sherman of Cornell University told *The New York Times*: "There's something charming, even magnificent, about these animals. What we regard as ugly is really a bundle of fancy adaptations for living underground."

# Tory MP calls for action on asthma

By NICK NUTTALL

A SENIOR Conservative MP who is asthmatic yesterday accused the Government of complacency over efforts to reduce traffic fumes in cities.

Sir Graham Bright, former parliamentary aide to the Prime Minister, said not enough was being done to protect people with breathing difficulties from the fumes of buses, taxis, diesel cars and lorries. Speaking during a short House of Commons debate, Sir Graham said it was "galling" that technological solutions were available to cut dramatically particulate fumes and soot.

He said a device called a continuous regeneration trap had been developed and needed government encouragement so that diesel vehicles caused less deadly pollution. "I would like to see it fitted to every new heavy goods vehicle and every bus, with the intention of extending it to all diesel cars."

He said the system would cost about £3,500 per HGV or bus but added: "The balance of costs and benefits will make retro-fitting even more attractive in the future."

# Child with half a brain forces rethink on speech

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A BOY who learnt to speak only after half of his brain was removed may lead psychologists to rethink their ideas about the acquisition of language.

The boy, known as Alex, was born with a disorder called Sturge-Weber syndrome, which interfered with the blood supply to the left side of his brain. By the age of eight, he was able to utter only a few sounds and only one intelligible word, "mama". Doctors decided to carry out radical surgery because he suffered from frequent epileptic fits. Christopher Adams, consultant neurosurgeon at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, removed the whole of the left half of his brain.

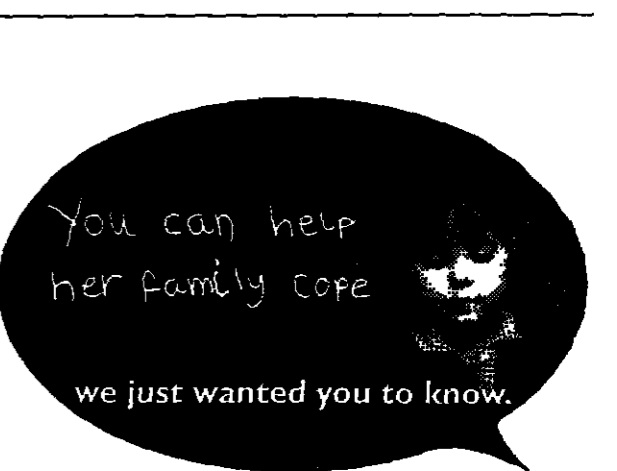
This procedure, though it appears drastic, is quite widely used in such cases, according to Dr Elizabeth Isaacs of the Institute of Child Health in London, who presented a paper on the case at a conference in Edinburgh. Children treated in this way can lead a nearly normal life, although their intelligence is low. Their IQ is about 70.

The operation was carried out when Alex was nine. The seizures ceased immediately but he was kept on anti-convulsant drugs for ten months as a precaution. He

others say that it is up to the age of puberty. We have a child here who learnt to speak after the age of ten, so this case at least argues for the higher age."

Dr John Marshall, a neurologist at Oxford University, told *New Scientist*: "It is an exceedingly remarkable case." However, he wondered whether Alex might have had the power of speech all along, but could not express it because of damage to the left hemisphere.

Dr Isaacs said she doubts this because of the way Alex learnt, uttering first single words and then phrases and sentences. "He went through all the same stages as a normal child but much more quickly. Tests of his comprehension before the operation showed that it was equivalent to a child of three and a half. He didn't have all that language bottled up in there."



**The Children's Society**  
A National Charity for the Children of England and the Islands  
a little voice  
**You can help. Call 0345 55 77 55**  
Charity Reg. No. 271124 Local office open 9.30am - 5pm

**WATERPROOF WINDPROOF BREATHABLE**  
**ALL WEATHER CLOTHING**

# Invasion of the ducks drives villagers to consider fowl play

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE village of Swanland, given its name by the Vikings who introduced swans there, is being overrun — by ducks. An invasion of wild mallards is also threatening to drive away Charlie and Esmeralda, the latest in a long line of swans which have graced the village pond.

A series of mild winters and a lack of natural predators have caused the duck population to soar to more than



Swanland's two remaining swans are under threat

1,000. They are devouring the swans' food and making the villagers' lives a misery. Villagers have already rounded up some of the interlopers and dumped them on the Humber in nearby Hull, hoping that hunters who shoot there regularly might solve the problem, but other ducks simply moved in to replace them. Locals are now planning more direct action. Mike Frankish, a parish councillor,

council chairman, said: "It's not too bad when they stay on the pond, but they are entering gardens. They have destroyed entire flower beds and keep villagers awake into the early hours with their quacking."

Steve Kehoe, landlord of the Swan and Cygnet pub, said a cull would be barbaric. The RSPCA agreed: "At the end of the day you are clearing the territory for more ducks to move in." Villagers are to seek advice from the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.

**Last year over 1,000,000 people thought "It'll never happen to me." (Then it did.)**

Accidents happen. Illness strikes. And when the victim is the breadwinner, the family's income stops. But, sadly, outgoings don't. Making sure your family is adequately protected is just one facet of United Friendly's comprehensive Financial Planning service. So if you want to sit down and discuss, person to person, the best way to manage your finances and maintain your lifestyle should the worst happen, clip the coupon or call 0800 806 608.

**United friendly PERSON TO PERSON**

FOR DETAILS, SEND TO UNITED FRIENDLY, FREEPOST CV603Z, PO. BOX 200, TILLOTLY BRIDGES ROAD, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON CV39 9ER.

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Home/Office Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
YOU MAY BE CONTACTED BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF UNITED FRIENDLY.

THE UNITED FRIENDLY MARKETING GROUP IS REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY FOR LIFE ASSURANCE, PENSIONS AND UNIT TRUST BUSINESS. UNITED FRIENDLY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS IS ALSO REGULATED BY INMO IN THE CONDUCT OF INVESTMENT BUSINESS.

# Post-Fascist leader determined to lift Duce's shadow

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN FLORENCE

GIANFRANCO FINI, the leader of Italy's post-Fascists and the rising star of the election campaign, yesterday said the legacy of Fascism had been overcome. Europe had no need to fear that a directly elected Italian presidency of the kind he favours would turn out to be "a short cut to power for a strong man".

In an interview with *The Times*, Signor Fini said the tide was turning in his favour, even in traditionally "Red" areas such as Tuscany and Emilia Romagna. He had just addressed a rally in Bologna, his home town, where he drew an admiring crowd of 10,000 — twice those at a rally for Fausto Bertinotti, the hardline Communist leader, near by.

There was a tremendous crowd," Signor Fini said. "No one saw a single Mussolini-type Fascist salute. I did not search anyone, but as far as I know no one was carrying a Fascist banner or a portrait of Il Duce."

Signor Fini, 44, is tall, immaculately dressed, shrewd and personable. He is a Polish speaker, with an ironic twinkle behind his rimless glasses. Doubts linger over his break with the Fascist MSI (Movimento Sociale Italiano), which he dissolved just over a

year ago to form the more moderate Alleanza Nazionale. The cover of *L'Espresso* this week carried a caricature of him with bloody lips and mad staring eyes under the headline — "Beware of the Right".

Nonetheless, the Alleanza Nazionale is set to gain between 5 and 10 per cent in a poll otherwise marked by apathy. One party likely to lose votes is Forza Italia, led by Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon who was Prime Minister for eight months in 1994 at the head of a centre-right coalition that included the MSI.

Yesterday Signor Berlusconi's trial on corruption charges resumed in Milan. Officially, Signor Fini shares his indignation over this "political-judicial bombardment".

Signor Fini insisted it was "too soon to say that our party is the dominant force on the Centre Right," adding Signor Berlusconi would be Prime Minister again if the bloc won.

But few doubt Signor Fini would be the coalition's key figure. It would need "time and patience" before the world was convinced Mussolini's heritage had been buried, he said. In the last election, two years ago, Signor Fini described Mussolini as a "great statesman". He now says the Duce was "one of those who put his stamp on our century".

"There is a real Fascist party," Signor Fini said, referring to The Flame — a splinter group led by Pino Rauti which stayed faithful to Fascist ideology when Signor Fini broke up the MSI. "We have refused to make pacts with them, even in constituencies where a 1 per cent difference could let in the Left."

If there was a dead heat on Sunday between Centre Left and Centre Right, Signor Fini said, the only solution was to introduce further electoral reform and hold new elections in six months' time. He favours *presidentialismo* — a directly elected President on the French model — and said fears that a "strong man"



Gianfranco Fini arrives in Bologna's Piazza Maggiore for a pre-election rally

would misuse power as Mussolini had were misplaced. "Nobody says France is a Fascist country."

Parliament would remain paramount, as President Scalfaro had insisted. "When he warned about the dangers of authoritarianism recently, he assured me he was not

referring to the Centre Right or to me personally."

Signor Fini said the Alleanza Nazionale was not aligned with any conservative force in Europe because it had its own characteristics. Italy needed flexibility from Europe over monetary union to allow the lira to join, he said.

Europe, for its part, needed Italy as the country which understood best "the real danger to peace comes not from the East but from the South" — a reference to tensions caused by immigration and Islamic fundamentalism.

Leading article, page 21

# Rifkind laments deadly British errors in Bosnia

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

IN THE Government's frank admission yet of fatal flaws in its previous Bosnia policy, Malcolm Rifkind last night warned Europe that it should never again attempt to go it alone in peacekeeping without the Americans.

"When the international community faces a crisis on the scale of Yugoslavia's collapse, direct US involvement is indispensable, especially if military action is required. A 'European solution to a European problem' was never a realistic option," the Foreign Secretary said at the Lord Mayor's Easter Banquet in Guildhall.

"As events since Dayton have shown, the transatlantic partnership is the key to success. That partnership of Europe and America working together, delivers results, diplomatic and military. So my firm view is that any arrangements we devise for the future must reflect that point."

He also brushed aside speculation that British troops might remain in Bosnia-Herzegovina after US forces pulled out at the end of the year. Nato forces, North American and European, had entered Bosnia together. "We will leave together. Any alternative would be foolish and short-sighted."

Admitting that United Nations credibility had been damaged by Bosnia, he suggested a "few lessons" that the world should learn. "We must not commit ourselves to a peacekeeping mission unless there is a peace to keep. Unproven [the UN Protection

Force] faced an impossible task."

It discharged that task as honourably as it could, saving tens of thousands of lives. "But if in future we want to intervene in a war zone, we must dispatch a force which is suitably structured and equipped for a role which might lead to combat." The second lesson was to avoid foreign policy by declaration. "The international community announced 'safe areas' in Bosnia without ever committing the forces necessary to make them a reality. The result was a damaging blow to international credibility."

Mr Rifkind gave a gloomy prognosis for peace in Bosnia. He criticised Bosnian leaders for their failure to bring about reconciliation. Only the people of Bosnia, in particular their leaders, could decide between peace and war. They had taken the first crucial steps, silencing the guns after years of fighting. But they had made no progress in living and working together for a united future.

Turning to the European Union, Mr Rifkind warned Britain's 14 partners at the inter-governmental conference not to fall into the trap of being fascinated by questions of construction. He said the Union faced a danger of "tumbling endlessly with the minutiae of the EU's institutional machinery, but losing sight of the point of it". Mr Rifkind hoped that, as Europe matured, it would escape the confines of institutional architects.

# Steffi Graf's father charged over taxes

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BERLIN

THE father of tennis star Steffi Graf has been charged on suspicion of faking the tax returns of the world's top rated woman player and hiding her earnings from the German tax man.

The Stuttgart public prosecutor said Peter Graf — who has been under investigative arrest since August — would be brought to court along with accountant Joachim Eckhardt. The investigators have found no evidence against Miss Graf herself.

Herr Graf's lawyers said it was still not clear whether any tax evasion had actually taken place. "Tax law for international athletes is confusing and complicated," they said in a joint statement.

During a number of interrogations, Miss Graf has told the authorities that her father handles all her tax matters

and that her signatures on incomplete tax returns were made by a printing machine used to sign letters to her fans.

The prosecutor believes that some DM42 million (£18.5 million) was hidden from the gaze of the German tax office. In some years no tax returns were submitted at all for Miss Graf. In other years, hefty sums were written off. During this period, Herr Graf was his daughter's financial adviser.

The scandal has already claimed some of the tennis player's high-paying sponsors. Now prosecutors will be able to dig deeper into the nature of her various contracts.

Miss Graf's game has not seriously suffered since the arrest of her father. She visits him in prison, but relations are said to be very strained.

SAVE UP TO £100 ON TOP BRAND CAMCORDERS

**JVC GR5V3 VHS-C CAMCORDER WITH LCD SCREEN**

- 3x power zoom
- 3" colour LCD screen for convenient recording and instant playback
- IP (long play) mode
- Self-timer

Was £499.99. 20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £40

**£449.98** (Dixons Deal)

SAVE £50

9 MONTHS 0% INTEREST

**CANON UC200 8mm 12x POWER ZOOM CAMCORDER**

- Unique "flexizone" exposure control
- Date/time insert
- Built-in wide angle converter
- Battery charger/discharger

Was £649.99. HURRY! LIMITED STOCKS

**£549.98** (Dixons Deal)

SAVE £100

FREE ACCESSORIES

**JVC GR4K400 VHS-C CAMCORDER WITH 12x POWER ZOOM**

- 6 programme auto-exposure modes
- Multi-brand easy edit facility
- 3 lux low light capability
- Built-in auto video light

Was £599.99. 20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £50

**£549.98** (Dixons Deal)

SAVE £50

12 MONTHS 0% INTEREST

**SANYO VME100 8mm Hi-Fi STEREO SOUND CAMCORDER**

- 10x power zoom
- 6 auto-exposure modes
- Date/time insert

Was £599.99. 20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £50

**£549.98** (Dixons Deal)

SAVE £50

12 MONTHS 0% INTEREST

FREE ACCESSORIES

**SANYO EX33 8mm "LCD" CAMCORDER**

- 3" LCD colour screen
- Infrared remote control
- Simple editing suite

Was £749.99. £699.98. HURRY! LIMITED STOCKS

**£649.98** (Dixons Deal)

SAVE £100

FREE ACCESSORIES

# Dixons

## SAVE A TOTAL OF £100 WITH THIS VOUCHER

### HURRY! OFFER ENDS MONDAY

HURRY! LIMITED STOCKS

**HITACHI VME10 8mm CAMCORDER WITH 12x POWER ZOOM**

- 1.5x instant zoom
- Auto/manual focus
- Date/time insert
- AA dry battery compatibility

**£399.99** (VOUCHER PRICE)

Was £499.99. In-store Price £449.99. 20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £53.33.

**Dixons**

There's a great deal going on

345 BRANCHES NATIONWIDE TEL: 0181-200 0200 FOR YOUR NEAREST BRANCH

SAVE UP TO £300 ON SONY

**SONY TR720 8mm CAMCORDER WITH 12x POWER ZOOM**

- 4 auto-exposure modes
- 0.8 lux low light recording

Was £649.99. 20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £72.33

**£549.99** (Dixons Deal)

SAVE £100

0% INTEREST

**SONY TR845 8mm CAMCORDER WITH 12x POWER ZOOM**

- 12x variable speed zoom
- Electronic steady shot

Was £649.99. £549.99.

**£649.99** (Dixons Deal)

SAVE £200

**SONY TR780 Hi-Fi STEREO SOUND CAMCORDER**

- 24x digital zoom
- Electronic steady shot
- 4 auto-exposure modes

Was £1099.99.

**£799.99** (Dixons Deal)

SAVE £300

**SONY TR720 8mm CAMCORDER**

- 12x variable speed zoom
- Built-in 3" LCD screen

Was £849.99. 20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £106.67

**£799.99** (Dixons Deal)

SAVE £50

0% INTEREST

**PANASONIC NVA-3 8mm CAMCORDER WITH 10x POWER ZOOM**

- 3 programme auto-exposure mode
- 1 lux low light capability
- Auto date record

In-store Price £549.99. 20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £53.33

**£499.99** (VOUCHER PRICE)

SAVE £50

12 MONTHS 0% INTEREST

## FORTE HERITAGE BREAKS

### SAVE 20%

FROM

# £39

per person, per night

Based on 2 nights dinner, bed and breakfast

£39-£44*	£55-£88*
<b>BARNBY</b> Whately Hall <b>BRANDON</b> The Brandon Hall <b>HERFORD</b> The Green Dragon <b>MATLOCK BAY</b> The New Bath Hotel <b>QUINDLE</b> The Talbot <b>SOUTHWELL</b> The Saracen's Head <b>TUDFORD</b> The Bell	<b>ASCOT</b> The Bayside <b>BATH</b> The Francis <b>DRIFTHAM</b> The Dart Marina Hotel <b>GRANMERE</b> The Swan <b>HEMSLEY</b> The Black Swan <b>MARLOW</b> The Compliant Angler <b>MUMFORD</b> The Avonmouth Hotel <b>ST. ANDREW'S</b> Rusacks Hotel <b>STRAFORD-ON-AVON</b> The Shakespeare
£45-£54*	<b>ARNDON</b> The Upper Reaches <b>CANTERBURY</b> The Chaucer Hotel <b>CHESTER</b> Blossoms Hotel <b>DOVEDALE</b> Peveril of the Peak <b>FOUNT OF DEAN</b> The Speech House <b>MARLBOROUGH</b> The Castle & Bell <b>NORTH BERRICK</b> The Marine <b>PADSTOW</b> The Metropole <b>RYE</b> The George

\*Prices represent a 20% discount on weekend rates from the Forte Leisure Breaks 1996 Brochure. Different rates apply for midweek stays. All stays are 2 nights.

Offer available until 30th April 1996

## FORTE

TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION CALL

### 0345 40 40 40

QUOTING REFERENCE P734 (or contact your local Travel Agent)

For other offers please see Teletext page 262

Ten years zone of stays

URGENT AP

# CRISIS LEBAN

0171 245

British Red

07/120120

# Ten years on, dead zone of Chernobyl stays under siege

AN 18-mile radius round the Chernobyl disaster site in northern Ukraine is a eerie zone. Potholed tracks link deserted villages, where rusty equipment lies scattered about girded blocks of flats. Wild boars run past abandoned houses and crows perch on fallen electrical cables.

Ten years after the world's worst nuclear accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, the area around the crippled reactor resembles a desolate battlefield. But amid the debris, the campaign to contain the environmental pollution continues in a low-key fashion, since the state of emergency has long been over.

The exclusion zone is run much like a military camp. Girding inside requires clearance from one of three militia-trained control points and travel is restricted within the zone. Workers walk around in protective gear and talk of life as if they were under siege.

"Chernobyl is its own miniature world — we refer to life here as before or after the war," Svetlana Svirina, a physicist who came here in 1986, said. "At the time of the accident everyone worked round the clock just to cover the reactor. Like war, there

As John Major flies to Kiev to discuss nuclear safety with Leonid Kuchma, the Ukrainian President, Lesia Rudakewich travels to Chernobyl, where the atmosphere is still that of a desperate battleground

was a real difference between those who risked their lives and those who did not.

Today life in this barren wasteland seems less clear-cut. Buses shuttle workers daily to the two Chernobyl nuclear reactors, Nos 1 and 3, still producing electricity, even as staff continue to monitor radiation levels around reactor No.4 that exploded on April 26, 1986. Reactor No.2 was shut down in 1991 after a fire. The contaminated areas and "clean spots" lie next to each other inside the zone and people cross from one to the other without concern.

Officially the zone is an uninhabited area, but about 650 self-settlers — evacuees who returned — reside in their old homes, tending their gardens and raising livestock.

"There are strict controls on everything," emphasised Ms Svirina. "Chernobyl is still considered a dry zone — no



Workers in protective gear repair potholes along a road leading into the town of Chernobyl yesterday

## G7 plans to stop uranium smuggling

By Jill Sherman  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR will join Western leaders this weekend in backing an action plan to prevent nuclear weapons material being smuggled out of the former Soviet Union to terrorists or "rogue states".

The programme to be agreed at a summit of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations, hosted by President Yeltsin in Moscow, has been drawn up because of growing fears that weapons-grade nuclear material is now being offered for sale for military use.

Last night the Prime Minister flew on the first leg of his trip to Prague, where he attended a dinner held by Vaclav Klaus, the Czech Prime Minister.

Today he will meet Leonid Kuchma, the Ukrainian President, and Yevgeni Marchuk, the Ukrainian Prime Minister, in Kiev, where the leaders are expected to discuss nuclear safety and the action programme on smuggling.

British officials emphasised that there had been no recorded attempt to smuggle nuclear materials. However, according to a report released by Harvard University, there have been six incidents in which highly enriched uranium or plutonium, the essential components for a nuclear bomb, were stolen in Russia.

The eight heads of state will approve a programme to try to prevent any materials with a potential military application from falling into the wrong hands and to deter potential traffickers. They will try to ensure that material no longer required at the vast former Soviet nuclear complex is disposed of safely.

The summit will also agree measures to ensure that nuclear reactors in the former Soviet Union are made safer or destroyed. The leaders will confirm a £2 billion programme leading to the closure of the Chernobyl plant and will take steps to improve safety at other reactors.

□ Moscow: Russia successfully carried out the experimental launch of a new type of intercontinental ballistic missile on Monday, Interfax reported. (AFP)

Everyone knew what to do, and people in charge took responsibility. But now? You've got managers here drawing quadruple pay."

Andriy Sukharuchkin, deputy chief engineer at the radiation monitoring centre based in Pripyat, said: "People come to work here for

many reasons. For some, it is the salary, for others, the friendships. For me, it is my profession."

For some it is also the memory of surviving 1986 and playing a role in the crisis management. "In the early days there were world-class experts working here," re-

called Ms Svirina. "There was a spirit of camaraderie and purpose. People gave up their health and their lives. No one thought about the pay. They thought about the nation and the need to save it."

Just as strong is the attraction to this devastated earth. "It's a kind of insulation. I feel

like a human here," said Mr Sukharuchkin. "I go back to the city with its thousands of automobiles, and I don't feel healthy there."

Ms Svirina agrees. "Every time I drive to the reactor, I think it beautifully empty. After being away from Chernobyl for a while, you miss it."

## Ukraine plays for time and money

By Michael Dynes

The spectre of a second explosion at the crippled Chernobyl complex in Ukraine, the site of the world's worst nuclear accident in April 1986, continues to haunt Western governments.

The Chernobyl complex houses four reactors. Number 4 was destroyed in the meltdown. Number 2 was shut down after a fire in the turbine hall in 1991, and the other two are still working.

Moscow was responsible for the clean-up operation during the first five years after the accident, making it difficult for Western powers to intervene. After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, however, the Western powers were slow to take the initiative. Leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) leading industrialised countries have since repeatedly insisted that the stricken complex be decommissioned. Originally, Kiev promised to comply with this demand by the end of 1993.

In October 1993, Ukraine changed its mind. Faced with the economic chaos which followed the demise of the Soviet Union, Ukraine could not survive without nuclear power which provides 40 per cent of its energy needs, 7 per cent of which comes from Chernobyl.

Ukrainian officials now insisted that the crumbling sarcophagus, which encases the wrecked reactor building, could be repaired, and the crippled plant could be modified to last until the end of its design life, in 2010. After a

warning by the International Atomic Energy Agency in 1994 that the sarcophagus was deteriorating at an alarming rate, a consortium of French, German and British companies won a £2.5 million European Union contract to carry out a feasibility study into how to shore up the existing structure.

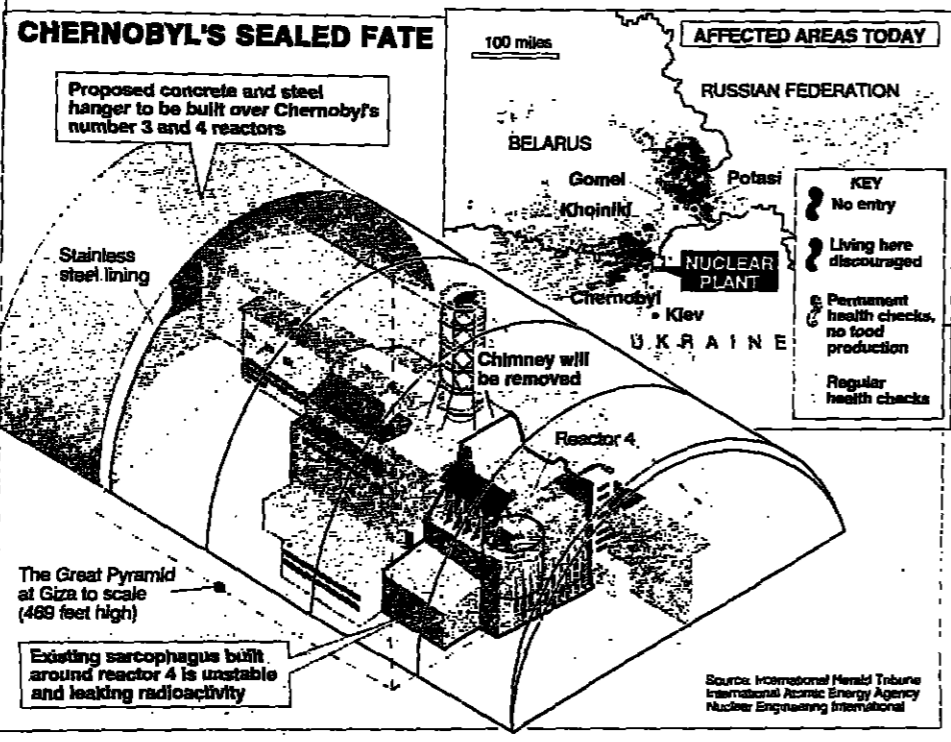
The ten-month study concluded that the reactor lid and its chimney were in danger of collapsing. It proposed a £1 billion scheme for stabilising the sarcophagus, and constructing a new concrete bunker to house the second and third reactors.

Months of delicate talks between the G7 and Ukraine began to show results by April last year, when President

Kuchma promised to close Chernobyl by 2000, but insisted that the West would still have to provide for alternative sources of energy.

A memorandum of understanding was signed by the G7 and Ukraine last December, committing £2 billion in grants and loans to improve Chernobyl's short-term safety, and providing alternative sources of energy, in exchange for closing the plant down by the end of the decade.

As the tenth anniversary of the disaster approaches, Ukraine has yet to receive a penny in Western assistance. It will be years before Western governments will cease to worry about a repeat performance at Chernobyl.



## Pardon for prisoners who tackled fire

FROM REUTERS  
IN KIEV

PRESIDENT Kuchma of Ukraine granted pardons yesterday to jailed offenders who helped to tackle the aftermath of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster or who suffered from its effects.

A part of commemorations to mark this month's tenth anniversary of the world's biggest nuclear accident, a presidential decree freed from prison anyone who had served at least a third of a sentence for minor offences. About 2.5 million people, including 900,000 children, were affected by the accident.

"The President is demonstrating his humanity towards first offenders who helped to deal with or suffered from the accident," said Petro Andrichenko, the head of the presidential pardon office. "It applies to more than 1,000 people."

Official statistics show that more than 300,000 Ukrainian citizens helped to put out the fire in the fourth reactor on April 26, 1986. The amnesty applies to adolescents, pregnant women and those with children. Beneficiaries must not have committed serious offences and must have behaved well in jail.

**URGENT APPEAL**

# CRISIS IN LEBANON

As you read this, an emergency is unfolding in Lebanon. 100,000 men, women and children have abandoned their homes to escape the recent outbreak of fighting. The refugees are fleeing north. Many are too exhausted to carry on and are seeking shelter in schools, hospitals and factories. More refugees are expected to join them.

The Red Cross is already on the spot, giving mattresses, blankets and vital food aid to people who have left everything behind. We are the only international aid agency providing assistance throughout southern Lebanon, and we are distributing supplies to medical centres and clinics, and we are deploying 32 ambulances and 25 mobile Red Cross clinics to the areas of greatest need.

Now we need your help to ensure aid continues to reach those who need it desperately. Please give as much as you can today. Your donation can save lives. Thank you.

Please call now with your credit card donation.

## 0171 245 1000

Or you can send a cheque or postal order with the coupon below.

**British Red Cross**  
Caring for people in crisis

Enclose a cheque/postal order (payable to British Red Cross) for  
 £250\*  £50  £30  £20 Other £  
 Or please debit my Visa/Mastercard/Amex./Diners Club/Switch Card  
 No.  Expiry Date

No.  Signature

Today's date

Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms

Address

Postcode

Please send this coupon with your donation, to: THE CRISIS IN LEBANON APPEAL, BRITISH RED CROSS, ROOM 814, FREEPOST, LONDON SW1X 7BR. \*A donation of £250 or more is worth a third as much again through Gift Aid as we can claim back, the 10%.

Please tick this box if you do not want to receive further information on the Red Cross.  
 Tick this box if you would like a receipt.

**CALL THE WORLD FOR A FEW BOB LESS.**

USA	£1.28	£3.40	62%
India	£2.39	£11.34	35%
South Africa	£4.81	£7.05	32%
Hong Kong	£4.22	£6.56	36%
Japan	£4.34	£8.77	51%
Australia	£2.34	£5.23	55%
Brazil	£2.16	£9.94	28%
Canada	£1.75	£3.40	49%
Germany/France	£2.22	£2.59	14%
Israel	£6.69	£8.25	19%

(Price comparison based on a 10 minute call)\*

- \* Savings to 100's of countries
- \* All major credit cards and Delta accepted
- \* "Minute Miles" bonus available
- \* No start-up costs, membership or joining fees
- \* Business and Residential customers welcome.
- \* Operators available, 24hrs a day, 7 days a week.

**FREEPHONE**  
0800 376 66 66

**BEFORE YOU PHONE THE WORLD, PHONE US.**

\*Free Telecom charges shown are standard rates inclusive of VAT and access charge to our London exchanges based upon British Telecom local weekend rate of 1.10p per minute inclusive of VAT. Monthly price shown is basic residential economy rate inclusive of VAT. Prices quoted correct as of January 1996.

the mystery of the Internet

**FREE software**

**FREE membership**

**FREE 10 hours online**

**FREE Internet address**

**CompuServe®**  
The Internet... and a whole lot more

**Call 0800 000200 now**  
<http://www.compuserve.co.uk>

**What is the Internet?**  
Forget the techno-blurb. The Internet is simply a huge global community of computer users all linked together. Get on it, and you can have more fun than you ever thought possible. And a massive boost in productivity if you're in business.

**Talk to the great provider.**  
CompuServe is the UK's most popular online service and Internet access provider with over 300,000 members — and 4.8 million worldwide. As well as easy and inexpensive connection to the Internet and a free Internet address, we offer you access to over 3,000 exciting CompuServe Services covering almost every subject under the sun.

**How do I get on it?**  
Phone us for your FREE software\* and CD multimedia tour of CompuServe and the Internet, which will help you get online in minutes. So what are you waiting for?

\*Free CompuServe membership for the first month including 10 hours free online, thereafter £6.50 per month including 5 hours free online. CompuServe Information Services (UK) Ltd, PO Box 676, Bristol BS99 3YN, United Kingdom. International calls +44 990 402 402.

THE HERITAGE BROS  
SAVE 20%  
**39**

FORTE



The shipowner Stavros Niarchos with his third wife, Evgenia, at Maxim's

# Gaudy era dies with Niarchos

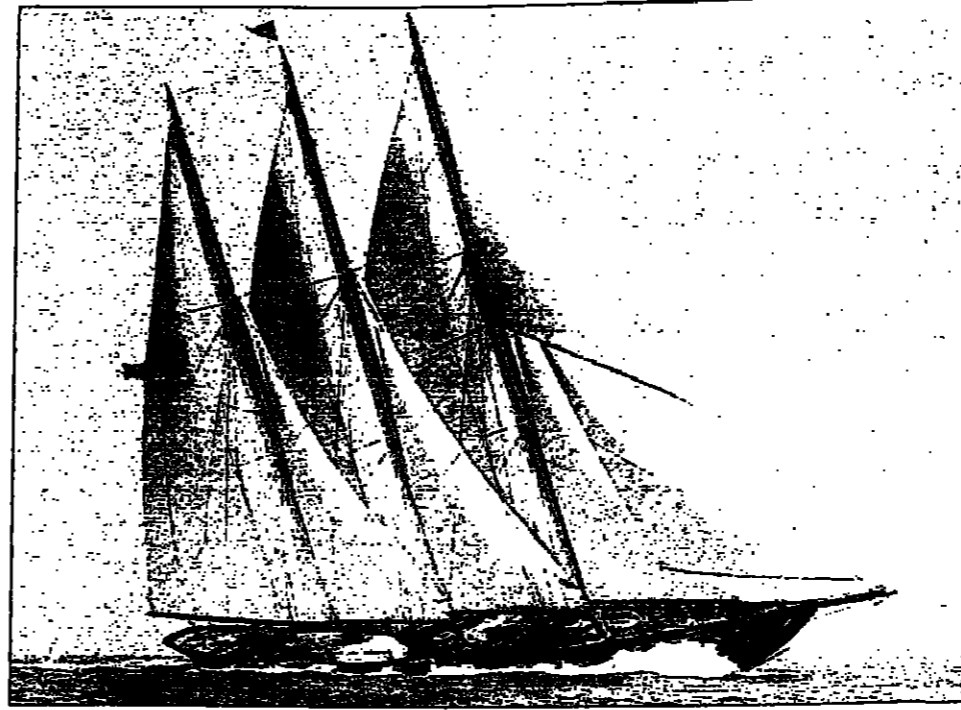
Battle of two tycoons gave birth to jet-set Greek myth

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE GREEK shipping magnate Stavros Niarchos, who died on Tuesday aged 86, was one of the last representatives of a gaudy but glamorous era when the size of a man's yacht and the lavishness of his parties directly reflected the breadth of his ego and the depth of his bank account.

Our age has become used to more reclusive and discreet billionaires, but Niarchos, with his brother-in-law and rival Aristotle Onassis, straddled the post-Second World War worlds of high society and business muscle, trailing money, former wives, mutual loathing and the whiff of scandal behind them.

They disbursed wealth conspicuously, on ever larger yachts, great paintings, para-



The schooner *Creole*, replaced in Niarchos's affections by the yacht *Atlantis*

dis retreats, fresh business ventures, and invited the world to gape. The age of Niarchos-Onassis was glorious in its vulgarity.

Niarchos was often described as a private man, at least compared with the swashbuckling Onassis, yet he had a taste for the rich

man's gestures and pleasures that made Robert Maxwell seem a shrinking violet: whether handing out gold sovereigns to Athens children or hunting leopards in Mozambique, he wore his wealth on the sleeve of his impeccable suits — ordered from a Milan tailor by the dozen.

The assessments of contemporaries over the years reflect how completely Niarchos became a figure of legend, even a cliché: "cool as glacier", "frankly sybaritic", "the New Argonaut", and so on.

With his ten Renaults and seven Van Goghs, his racehorses and properties spread across the globe he was, to use an appropriately old-fashioned-sounding term, a founder of the "international jet set". His entertaining was fabulous, whether on his yacht in his Paris townhouse, or on the private Aegean island that he stocked with rare wild game and plants and exotic socialites, visiting royalty and world leaders. "Stavros never gives or goes to less than five parties a week," a friend noted in the 1950s.

A short, handsome man with an almost visible aura of energy, Niarchos often said of himself: "I am Greek and I feel Greek." But, like others in the rarefied arena of the massively rich, he was oddly stateless, restlessly travelling the world's most luxurious places. It was no accident that his shipping fleet tended to sail under flags of convenience.

The rivalry, which neither sought to conceal, between Niarchos and Onassis — over villas, islands, boats, oil-refining contracts and, above all, shipping empires — merely added to their shared myth. "In business we cut each other's throats," Onassis once remarked, "but now and then we sit around a table and behave — for the sake of the ladies."

But the ladies were bound up in the sumptuous soap opera, for only Hollywood could compete in creating such an improbably tangled tale.

The tycoon had five marriages, the third and longest to Evgenia Livanos, the daughter of fellow shipping magnate Stavros Livanos. Onassis had married her sister, Tina, a year earlier. In 1963, after 18 years of marriage and four children, Evgenia and Niarchos divorced.

Niarchos's subsequent marriage to Charlotte Ford, daughter of the car baron Henry Ford II, went the same way, whereupon he returned to Evgenia. When she died in 1970 from an overdose of sleeping pills, a post-mortem examination indicated he had suffered physical abuse. Niarchos insisted the injuries had been caused during his attempts to revive her and charges against him were dropped. A year later, in perhaps his most remarkable act of one-upmanship, he married Tina Onassis, his rival's former wife and his own former sister-in-law.

Onassis died in 1975, and one wonders whether Niarchos came to miss the adversary whom he had cordially detested for so many years. According to one old joke, Onassis once went to South Africa for a heart transplant operation costing \$1 million. A little later Niarchos did the same. When he returned he boasted to his competitor that his new heart had cost him half that amount.

"And so it is should," Onassis replied. "They gave you mine."

Obituary, page 3

## THE SUNDAY TIMES



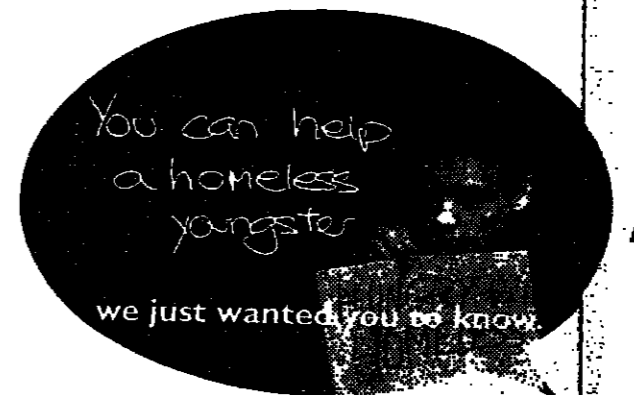
"I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BUSINESS SCENE IN HALF AN HOUR IN BED ON A SUNDAY MORNING THAN IN ALL THE REST OF THE WEEK."

Gerry Robinson  
Group Chief Executive, Granada Group PLC.

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS



Opera-singer Maria Callas at a nightclub with Niarchos's life-long rival, Aristotle Onassis



**The Children's Society**  
A voluntary Society of the Church of England and the Church of Wales  
a little voice

You can help. Call 0345 55 77 55

Charity Reg No 221124 Local rates apply. Fax 283571601

NEED INSTANT INSURANCE?  
CALL SWINTON  
0800 600 700  
0500 451 451

Imran S...  
strain a...  
lashes o...  
repor...

LINE RENTAL  
£8.99

MOBILE PHONES FROM AS LITTLE AS £1

FOR SOUND ADVICE AN...

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom center of the page.

# Imran shows strain as he lashes out at reporter

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN LAHORE

CANCER patients returned gingerly to Imran Khan's bomb-damaged charity hospital in Lahore yesterday as he and his wife, Jemima, contemplated the impact of the attack on their increasingly exposed lives in the sinister world of Pakistani politics.

The strain on the former Pakistani cricket captain showed: he punched a reporter at the hospital for asking what was regarded as an offensive question, and expressed disgust at a suggestion that he arranged Sunday's blast himself to gain political mileage.

The poor, sitting in wheelchairs in makeshift waiting areas, were assured that doctors and nurses had heeded Mr Khan's appeals to continue their humanitarian work and that treatment would remain free.

The charity must now raise funds for repairs. It costs 250 million rupees (£5 million) a year to run the hospital, which sees about 200 patients a day. Mr Khan uses his mass appeal to keep the money pouring in. All patients are meant to be treated last year only 8 per cent paid.

Mrs Jemima, as she is commonly known here, must be wondering into what kind of murky political world her marriage last year has taken her. Mr Khan must regard himself as an assassination target as he prepares to enter politics in a bid for the premiership.

He flew to Karachi yesterday to study fundraising schemes to pay for repairs to the hospital estimated at £1 million. The damage could take a year to fix. He returned to his home in the Zaman Park district of Lahore late last night, aware that life can never be the same. Today he will again visit the hospital, which was opened in December 1994 and named after his late mother, to give moral support to nervous staff.

Explosives experts yesterday

picked through the rubble of a corner of the building shattered in the blast, but found few clues. The nation shared a sense of disgust that such an institution should fall victim to political vengeance. It is assumed that the attack was a warning to Mr Khan to stay out of politics.

The signs are that the bomb had a timing device, enabling the attacker to be miles away when the explosion killed and maimed patients and staff in the outpatients' reception area. Burnt and twisted wheelchairs strewn about the building attested to the power of the blast. Pieces of furniture hurled through windows still lay on the lawns yesterday.

Mr Khan's foray into politics may not be announced officially for another few weeks. Initially he will launch what he calls a reformist movement, which will evolve into a party once it formulates policies on unemployment, drugs, violence and the conflict with India over Kashmir.

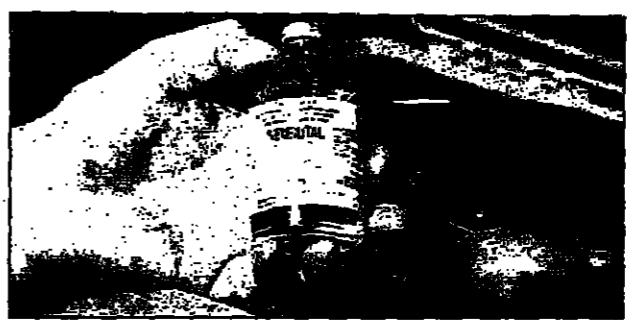
He has his sights set on the general election due in 1998, although he says there is no guarantee that he will be ready by then to make a bid for the post of Prime Minister. His manifesto may mark a shift away from an earlier fascination with Islamic fundamentalism, which worried educated Pakistani women. He once said Muslim women could do anything as long as their husbands gave them permission.

He has reinvented himself in the past year from a Westernised playboy to a traditional Pakistani in baggy clothes. For a time he associated with General Hamid Gul, a fundamentalist hardliner who was head of the Pakistan intelligence agency. He was also close to the youth wing of the fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami party.

Protection for Mr Khan and his wife was stepped up last night, although security at the hospital remained tight.



Dr Philip Nitschke with his computer program. The "final message" is on screen



Lethal drug: Nembutal, being used for euthanasia

# Nurse will be first on death machine

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

A NURSE with terminal cancer hopes to be the first person to take advantage of the voluntary euthanasia laws which come into effect in Australia's Northern Territory on July 1, it was revealed yesterday.

Mrs Jan Culhane plans to use Dr Philip Nitschke's controversial computer software that will allow her to kill herself by lethal injection. After making a series of commands at a bedside laptop computer — linked to a syringe driver — she will see this message on screen: "If you press 'Yes', you will cause a lethal injection to be given within 30 seconds and will die. Do you wish to proceed?"

If she does so, Mrs Culhane will lose consciousness and die painlessly a few seconds later. Before she takes that final step, two doctors have to agree she is suffering from an illness that will result in death; and a psychiatrist has

to establish that she is not suffering from treatable clinical depression.

Mrs Culhane, 51, a nurse for 30 years, has seen many of her patients suffer agonising death, a fate she is desperate to avoid. "I'm by no means under more pain than I've seen people survive, but it is pain that I am not willing to accept," she says.

Mrs Culhane developed breast cancer five years ago and has had both breasts removed. The cancer has now spread to her lymph glands. A mother of three, separated from her husband, she has already left her home in Albany, New South Wales, to live in Darwin. Critics of the legislation, who include the Australian Medical Association, fear Darwin could become the death capital of the world, as hundreds of terminally ill people make their way there for a date with Dr Nitschke's "death machine".

# Doctor tells of backpackers' fatal wounds

BY ROGER MAYNARD

THE deaths of two British backpackers were detailed in a catalogue of injuries outlined in an Australian court yesterday. The jury listened in silence as Dr Peter Bradhurst, a forensic pathologist who carried out post-mortem examinations on Caroline Clarke and Joanne Walters, revealed the extent of their wounds.

He said Walters, from Maesteg, Mid Glamorgan, had suffered at least 14 stab wounds to the chest and neck. There was a gag around her mouth, and an untied ligature around her neck "suggested an attempt at strangulation or some form of restraint". The body of Clarke, whose parents live near Hexham, Northumbria, was found with

a red cloth, which was peppered with gunshot holes. She had been shot ten times in the head and stabbed in the chest.

Dr Bradhurst said the stab wounds would have had to have been made by a 30mm knife. Shown a Bowie knife in court, he said he would have expected the blade to have caused a different-sized entry wound. Ivan Milat, a roadworker who is alleged to have owned the knife, has pleaded not guilty to the murder of seven backpackers and the kidnapping of Paul Onions, a British tourist.

Earlier, Stephen Wright, an equity specialist from Beckenham, Kent, told how he met Clarke and Walters while he was on a working holiday

during 1992. They had worked as grapepickers in a winery at Mildura, Victoria, and toured Tasmania together.

On their return to Sydney, he put them up in his room at a backpackers' hostel on April 17, 1992, just before they left in search of harvesting work in Western Australia. "They were not officially at the hostel on the night, to avoid paying for another night's accommodation," he said. They left early the following morning.

The prosecution asked: "Did you ever see them again?" He replied: "No." Their remains were discovered five months later in the Belanglo State Forest in the New South Wales Highlands of New South Wales.



Clarke: repeatedly shot in the head



Walters: stabbed in the chest and neck

# Canberra promises purge of diplomats

BY TOM WALKER

AUSTRALIA'S new Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer, yesterday promised to clean up his country's embassies after recent revelations of paedophile rings run by its senior serving and former diplomats in Asia.

The "ugly envoy" scandal has ruined Mr Downer's inaugural tour, which takes him round the very "sex triangle" haunted by the errant diplomats. When he landed in Indonesia yesterday he was faced by allegations that William Brown, a former Second Secretary in the embassy in Jakarta, had been involved with four other Australians in a paedophile ring on the nearby island of Lombok.

Mr Brown and Robert Dunn, a former Sydney teacher, are being investigated by Indonesian and Australian federal police.

Last year Ken Aldred, a maverick Liberal MP, accused John Holloway, a former Ambassador to Manila and Cambodia, and three other senior diplomats, of being paedophiles. Mr Holloway has since returned to Australia and last week faced questions from police in Canberra.

Since then another top-ranking diplomat has been suspended on full pay, pending an investigation into child abuse allegations. Sources in Canberra said yesterday that he was believed to have worked in South-East Asia, although his whereabouts are unknown.

Mr Downer, who had been hoping to use his tour to bolster diplomatic and trade relations, said that "no stone would be left unturned" in the Government's purge of the diplomatic service. He described the alleged activities of Mr Brown as "abhorrent behaviour".

Mr Dunn, who appears to have been sheltered by Mr Brown for several months, has been described by an Australian royal commission as a paedophile. The commission, which is continuing its work, has been investigating child sex abuse allegations against diplomats and businessmen for the past year. James Wood, of the commission, described Mr Dunn's exploits as "evil" and "frightening".

**MPC mobile phone centre**

Startling OFFERS Honest ADVICE

LINE RENTAL £8.99 per month Plus FREE connection and calls from 20p per minute

MOBILE PHONES FROM AS LITTLE AS £1

6 MONTHS FREE LINE RENTAL

FREE CALLS FOREVER!

FOR SOUND ADVICE AND GREAT OFFERS, WHY GO ANYWHERE ELSE?

Not all offers available together. Offers subject to status and are available on selected handsets and tariffs only. Offers dependent on signing a new 12-month agreement through MPC with payment by Direct Debit. Please provide two methods of personal identification. £8.99 per month line rental applies to first twelve months of contract on MPC's Moneywise tariff. Free calls for length of contract, available when you opt to pay for Call Inclusive Options on selected Callnet tariffs. Free calls for length of contract, available when you opt to pay for Call Inclusive Options on selected Callnet tariffs. Free calls for length of contract, available when you opt to pay for Call Inclusive Options on selected Callnet tariffs.

BARNSELY 01226 770880  
 BASILDON 01268 522288  
 BASILDON Eastgate 01268 288888  
 BASINGSTOKE 01256 330333  
 BRIGHTON 01273 606242  
 BURY ST EDMUNDS 01284 763000  
 CAMBRIDGE 01223 462482  
 CANTERBURY 01227 780111  
 CHELMSFORD 01245 353906  
 CHICHESTER 01243 771117  
 COLCHESTER 01206 369800  
 EASTBOURNE 01323 720200  
 FAREHAM 01329 825511  
 FOLKESTONE 01303 259000

GLOUCESTER 01452 502525  
 GRAYS 01375 396693  
 GREAT YARMOUTH 01493 331113  
 GUILDFORD 01483 300888  
 HARTLEPOOL 01429 234566  
 HEMEL HEMPSTEAD 01442 233003  
 HORSHAM 01403 260410  
 IPSWICH 01473 215915  
 LUTON 01582 487788  
 MAIDSTONE 01622 201622  
 NORTHAMPTON 01604 259444  
 ORPINGTON 01689 876060  
 PETERBOROUGH 01733 555773  
 RAINHAM 01708 524406

REDDITCH 01527 584588  
 ROMFORD 01708 753348  
 SOUTHAMPTON 01703 211433  
 ST ALBANS 01727 854444  
 STEVENAGE 01438 751175  
 STROUD 01634 296496  
 WESTCLIFF ON SEA 01702 333766

LONDON BRANCHES  
 CHISWICK 0181 747 1444  
 ENFIELD 0181 367 5333  
 FENCHURCH STREET 0171 709 9000  
 SOUTH WOODFORD 0181 532 9663  
 STRAND 0171 240 0222  
 DOCKLANDS 0171 252 0787

**BLACK & WHITE IS TOP OF THE LEAGUE**

Score the winning goal when you join the club and buy from Gateway 2000.

Want the top team in the U.S. and world class PC gear? Gateway 2000 is one of the fastest growing PC companies in Europe too. From a modest beginning in a garage in the American Midwest in 1988, we're now a Fortune 500 company with an annual turnover of nearly \$4 billion and over 20,000 employees worldwide. So you get more PC for less than £800, which means you can beat your friends and support from the sidelines by adding up to genuine value for money. Our P5-100 Multimedia, with a fantastic software bundle worth over £300, is fast and powerful, and ideal for mastering all kinds of tasks.

Every Gateway 2000 PC comes with a 30-day money-back guarantee, free telephone support for hardware and software for the system's lifetime and 1 year free maintenance at either your home or office. Gateway 2000 the top player at home or away.

For details of our full range of PCs, call us free for a great deal more from Gateway 2000.

**PS-100 MULTIMEDIA**

- Intel® 100MHz Pentium® Processor\*
- 16MB EDO RAM
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- Six-Speed CD-ROM
- 1.6GB 5ms IDE Hard Drive with PCI Enhanced IDE Interface
- PCI Local Bus Graphics, 2MB DRAM
- Esseniq Waveable Sound Card & Altec Lansing ACS40 Speakers with ACS250 Subwoofer
- 17" Vivitron® Colour Monitor\*
- Desktop Case
- Windows® 95 105 Key Keyboard & MS Mouse
- Microsoft® Windows 95
- MS Office Professional® 95
- MS Encarta® '96 (US Version)
- 3 Year Limited Warranty

**£2025.70 inc. VAT and Delivery**

**GATEWAY2000**

"You've got a friend in the business."

0800 74 2000

Gateway 2000, Clonsilla Industrial Estate, Dublin 17, Ireland.

\*Optional and prices are subject to change without notice. ©1996 Gateway 2000, Gateway 2000, Windows and Office Professional are registered trademarks of Gateway 2000, Inc. The Intel Inside Logo, Pentium and Encarta are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation.

# US and Japan seal new security pact to defend Pacific

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

JAPAN and the United States, in a historic declaration yesterday, agreed to strengthen their defence alliance and pursue a joint strategy to maintain peace and prosperity in Asia and the Pacific in the post-Cold War era.

At a watershed summit, President Clinton and Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, celebrated the US-Japan security treaty as the anchor of "one of the most successful bilateral relationships in history".

Playing down the trade frictions that plagued previous summits, Mr Clinton and Mr Hashimoto focused on the need to restructure the alliance between the world's two biggest economic powers by expanding the role of the Japanese armed forces. "Our security alliance is the key to maintaining a Pacific at peace, especially at this time of profound regional change," Mr Clinton said.

In a joint declaration on security, issued after the talks, the US pledged to maintain its current level of about 100,000 troops in East Asia, including 47,000 stationed in Japan. Mr

Hashimoto committed Japan to continue paying most of the costs of maintaining the US military presence.

Last night the Japanese media were unanimous in their opinion that the summit had lived up to its billing as the "most significant summit since the end of the Cold War" — words that William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, had used to preview the meeting.

The three-day official visit, which began on Tuesday, has been full of pomp. President and Mrs Clinton twice met Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, when they were officially welcomed and later yesterday at a banquet at the Imperial Palace.

After the meeting with Mr Hashimoto, Mr Clinton said America would be committed to reducing the number of US bases on the southern island of Okinawa, where the military presence is most intrusive. Washington decided to return several facilities in a bid to calm anti-base protests on Okinawa after the rape of a schoolgirl by three US servicemen last year.

Standing beside the Presi-

dent in the grounds of Tokyo's Akasaka Palace yesterday, Mr Hashimoto emphasised that, without the US military presence, Japan would have to re-arm itself, which would perturb its neighbours.

The summit marked the first time that leaders of Japan and America had come together to address the security challenges posed by the end of the Cold War and the waning of the Soviet threat. Now, the deterrent value of their alliance lies in coping with the increasing power of China and uncertainties about Peking's future behaviour.

The closer defence ties were symbolised by Mr Clinton's visit to the USS Independence, the aircraft carrier deployed last month to deter any Chinese attack on Taiwan during Peking's hostile military exercises. Speaking on board the carrier, anchored at Yokosuka, southwest of Tokyo, Mr Clinton said its deployment "helped to calm a rising storm".

A Japanese Navy cruiser tied up alongside, and its crew joined in welcoming the President. Under the new security



Empress Michiko, right, introduces Hillary Clinton to members of the Imperial Family at a welcoming ceremony yesterday at the Akasaka Palace

alliance, Japan will in future play an active role alongside US forces in the common cause of defending the Asia-Pacific region. The two leaders also discussed what they could do in case of a conflict in Asia,

and agreed to review guidelines on defence co-operation.

Until now Japan had argued that a conflict in Korea or the Taiwan Strait was not its business. But many Japanese are now aware that the second

biggest economic power can no longer shirk its responsibilities. Politicians have been preparing the country for a further watering-down of its peace constitution by saying that Tokyo would incur world

censure if it denied assistance to US forces engaged in a Korean conflict.

Over the past year, teams from the Pentagon and the Japanese Self-Defence Forces have worked together on the

new approach to defence co-operation enshrined in yesterday's declaration, enabling Mr Clinton and Mr Hashimoto to wax eloquent about common security objectives as they enter the 21st century.

## Jimmy the Goodfella makes gentle exit

FROM QUENTIN LETTIS IN NEW YORK



Burke: Irish Godfather who would help pensioners to cross the street

JIMMY THE GENT has died, but not in a burst of bullets. Mobster James Burke, to give him his real name, was one of New York's original "Goodfellas" and was played in the film by Robert de Niro. He has died of cancer in hospital, after being taken there from prison.

Burke, of Irish immigrant stock, rose to prominence in New York's predominantly Italian mob after the then record theft of \$5.8 million from a Lufthansa jetliner at Kennedy airport in 1973. Police said that he was the head of the operation, although they never pinned the crime on the man whose other nickname was "the Irish Godfather".

Many of those involved in the airport heist came to unpleasant ends in what became a notorious falling-out among thieves. Eight of them disappeared — with concrete boots — and a pet beautician called Theresa Ferrara was chopped up into little pieces and scattered over New Jersey from a helicopter. Burke

was called "Jimmy the Gent" partly in fearful irony, partly because he was one of those criminals who would help old age pensioners across the street and call police "Mr".

"I marvelled at his charm," said Ed McDonald, a former head of New York's Organised Crime Strike Force. "He was always polite."

Gambling was Burke's weakness, and the police finally tripped him up on a 1982 charge of fixing college basketball games. He was later convicted of murder. His victim, a drug dealer, was found in a meat freezer with his limbs "hog-tied".

## US smokers gasping for Cuban cigar

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

New York: Poor tobacco crops and increased customs vigilance have caused a shortage of black market Cuban cigars in America (Quentin Lettis writes).

Despite a trade embargo imposed by President Kennedy in 1963, a smuggling network has ensured that American smokers continued to enjoy the powerful "hit" of a Cuban cigar.

The current shortage in which prices have risen by around 40 per cent, with 50 coronas fetching at least \$850 (£566), started in earnest two weeks ago after the recent deterioration in relations between Washington and Havana.

## Buchanan snipes at Dole with call for tough line on China

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PAT BUCHANAN put Bob Dole, the Republican presidential nominee, on the spot yesterday by demanding an end to America's "admiral appeasement" of China.

The conservative columnist was speaking for many on the Republican Right who believe it is time that the party treated China as a "noxious neighbourhood bully" and "the biggest rogue nation on earth". Mr Dole is so torn on the issue, however, that he has cancelled a speech he was to have made in California on Monday.

President Clinton must decide by June 4 whether to grant another annual exten-

sion of China's most favoured nation trading status, which means low tariffs on Chinese imports. He is expected to do so despite Peking's continuing human rights abuses, theft of American intellectual property rights, flouting of arms control agreements and recent aggression towards Taiwan.

Such a decision would give Mr Dole a great opportunity to attack the President for coddling "the butchers of Beijing" — the very accusation Mr Clinton made against President Bush during the 1992 presidential campaign.

However, Mr Dole has long supported preferential trading status for Peking, not least

because his home state of Kansas does considerable business with China. The Republicans' traditional business interests want China's favoured status renewed and Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, declared his support for a further extension yesterday.

Mr Dole hopes to make Mr Clinton's wobbly foreign policy performance a key election issue this autumn, but the Republicans are deeply divided on a whole range of foreign policy issues ranging from the role of the United Nations to NATO expansion, and from intervention in Bosnia-Herzegovina to foreign aid.

The more you fly the more you save.

At last. A unique scheme that offers discounts to frequent business flyers to France. Our innovative Business Saver Card saves you 30%. You can buy a card for one route, two routes, or all our direct flights to France from London. Members of our frequent flyer programme - Fréquence Plus - can also earn Miles on Air Inter Europe flights and bonus Miles on purchase of the Card. For details of our Business Saver Card, contact your Travel Agent. Or call us on 0181 742 6600.

New. Fast. Efficient.

AIR INTER AIR FRANCE

## Renewing your home insurance in April or May?

### If you're 50 or over, save with Saga Home Insurance

You will know how expensive home insurance can be - particularly if your insurance company is also having to insure younger, less careful householders. Thankfully, if you're aged 50 or over you can benefit from Saga Home Insurance - a superior household insurance that's only available to mature, responsible people like you.

Because of this, Saga Home Insurance can offer you genuine savings over other policies, while giving you cover that fully protects your home and possessions. So if your home insurance is due for renewal soon, or if you would simply like to find out how much you could save with Saga Home Insurance, call us today - free.

**The Saga Price Promise**

If you find another comparable policy at a lower price within 2 months of taking out Saga Home Insurance, we'll refund you the difference.

**SAGA Services Ltd**

Saga Services Ltd would like to send you information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to these companies to enable them to do so.

Alternatively, send this coupon to us in an envelope - you do not need a stamp.  
Saga Services Limited, FREEPOST731, Middleburg Square, Folkestone, Kent CT20 1BR.

Mr / Mrs / Miss Initial: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Policy Renewal Date: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of bedrooms: \_\_\_\_\_  
Type of Property:  
Detached House:  Semi-detached House:   
Terraced House:  Detached Bungalow:   
Semi-detached Bungalow:  Flat/Maisonette:   
Other:  Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_  
Approximately when was it built?  
Pre 1920  1920-1945  1946-1974  1980-Present   
H 2769

Please tick the type of cover for which you would like a quotation:  
Home Contents Cover   
Buildings Cover

Answer YES to the following and you could save up to 15% on your Contents premium.

Does your home have an annually maintained burglar alarm? Yes  No   
Is a 5-lever mortice lock fitted to the front door? Yes  No   
Are all other external doors fitted with key-operated locks or bolts? Yes  No   
Are secure key-operated locks fitted to all accessible windows? Yes  No   
Are you an active member of a Police Approved Neighbourhood Watch Scheme? Yes  No

For insurance on listed buildings, those of non-standard construction, flats and maisonettes. Or if you are the landlord of the property to be insured, please telephone 0800 414 525 ext 2769 for your quote or tick the box for further details

**Call us today!**

For your free no obligation quote and a free Saga pen, simply call us on the number below. We will be pleased to answer any questions you have on Saga Home Insurance.

**0800 414 525 ext.2769**

Lines open Monday to Friday 9am - 6pm, Saturdays 9am - 1pm

**UK's NO.1 Best Selling Finance Software**

It's so easy to...  
We used to spend hours...  
Then a friend recommended...  
It really puts us in control...  
Learning Saver is really easy...  
It saves you...  
Saver shows you where your money goes...  
helps you make better decisions...  
and choices

General not to Lebanon

Hezbollah peace com

UK's NO.1 Best Selling Finance Software

It's so easy to...  
We used to spend hours...  
Then a friend recommended...  
It really puts us in control...  
Learning Saver is really easy...  
It saves you...  
Saver shows you where your money goes...  
helps you make better decisions...  
and choices



# General tells Peres not to end war in Lebanon too soon

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S top military officer in Lebanon yesterday issued an unprecedented challenge to Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, urging him not to order a swift end to Operation Grapes of Wrath.

The intervention by Brigadier-General Giora Inbar has prompted an extraordinary political dispute in Israel about the conduct of the war in Lebanon.

The general, a controversial war hero who is regarded by many Israelis as too popular and too closely involved in the fighting to dismiss, told reporters that the Israel Defence Force would not let Mr Peres negotiate an end to the war at this stage.

The general's challenge to the authority of the man who doubles as Prime Minister and Defence Minister cast a shadow over American-led diplomatic efforts to end the fighting, now in its seventh day. It provoked fury among

## MILITARY CHALLENGE

left-wing Israeli politicians who were concerned that their country was once again being dragged back into the Lebanese "quagmire".

"We are advancing step by step. We will not permit a situation in which the Prime Minister suddenly stops us without having accomplished the tasks," the general said at the Tel Naches base in the occupied south Lebanon "security zone" held by Israel since 1985. He repeatedly broke off from his remarks to direct artillery reprisals against attacks to the north.

Fears immediately swept the Labour-led Government that the top brass had effectively usurped power from Mr Peres, a politician renowned for not having a military background. Many commentators saw

the influence of the main right-wing Likud opposition party behind the general's remarks. Likud has argued that Operation Grapes of Wrath has not yet gone far enough in dismantling the terrorist capabilities of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah.

General Inbar is the liaison officer with Israel's client militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), which is carrying out most of the fighting against Hezbollah targets on the ground.

"He will be reprimanded, but at this juncture of the military operation he will not be sacked," one Israeli official said. "That would pull the carpet from under the feet of the SLA."

Government members of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee demanded an explanation from Lieutenant-General Amnon Shahak, the Chief of Staff. He told the committee that General Inbar's statement was "silly and unnecessary".

The Israeli Government is anxious about the effects of the conflict on domestic opinion before the general election on May 29 and the American-led diplomatic efforts to bring about a ceasefire. Dedi Tsuker, a left-wing member of the Knesset, said: "One should hope that it is not the army which is leading the political echelon in this operation as one may guess from [General] Inbar's statements."

Uri Dromi, the head of the Government's press office, said: "This was an aberration by this man and not a sign that the Government and the military are not working in complete harmony on this operation."

Some diplomatic observers believe General Inbar spoke out in an attempt to warn the Government against trying to bring about any quick halt to the fighting such as that ordered in 1993 to end Operation Accountability. They pointed out that there was an undercurrent of hawkish opposition to Labour policies inside the military.

Letters, page 21



Rafik Hariri has a final inspection by a military aide before meeting John Major

# Major offers aid for civilians fleeing onslaught

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

## LONDON

JOHN MAJOR yesterday told Rafik Hariri, the Lebanese Prime Minister, that Britain was ready to rush emergency aid to Lebanon to help civilians fleeing the Israeli onslaught.

The Downing Street talks came as Britain took a markedly more critical line towards the Israeli attacks on Lebanon. The Prime Minister expressed his concern, and said everything must be done to break the cycle of violence. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said Britain was disturbed by the rising number of civilian casualties. The mounting violence was another threat to the peace process. New humanitarian problems were developing as people fled from the south of the country.

Mr Hariri told a press conference that his Government would not try to disarm Hezbollah while the Israelis occupied the south of Lebanon. That would be a betrayal, and would condone the occupation. Peace was not possible until Israel fulfilled United Nations resolution 425 calling for the removal of its troops.

He welcomed both the American and French peace proposals: each had points that Lebanon could accept as well as unacceptable proposals. He wanted to fuse the two

plans, and supported their demand that Israel stop attacking Lebanese civilians.

The Israeli attacks had not harmed Hezbollah, he noted; on the contrary, they had strengthened the radical group. No Hezbollah fighter had been killed, and his military machine was intact.

Mr Hariri admitted that Hezbollah posed problems for his Government. But he added: "If Israel asks us to make life easy for them while they are occupying parts of our country, we are not going to do that. No Lebanese government could do that."

Israel had made it quite clear that its intention was to hurt Lebanon's economic recovery. The attacks on power stations had plunged Beirut into darkness. But he defiantly rejected any intimidation. Beirut was not in panic, he said; the currency was stable; and France had promised emergency help to repair the power stations within two days.

Last night the British Red Cross launched an emergency appeal for those displaced by the fighting. It said that an estimated 400,000 people had fled, and the exodus was still not over.

# Hezbollah rejects peace conditions

BY MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

## US PROPOSAL

THE pro-Iranian Hezbollah group yesterday rejected an American proposal for ending a week-long Israeli blitz into Lebanon and renewed its commitment to its guerrilla warfare against Israel's occupation of south Lebanon.

"We reject the American initiative," Hezbollah MP Ali Ammar said. "To us, the American proposal means suicide."

President Clinton, speaking in Tokyo, regretted that the peace initiative had not made progress but insisted: "We will do what we can to bring an end to the violence and try to re-establish a workable agreement." Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, continued to press the initiative, telephoning the foreign ministers of Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia from Tokyo.

Mr Ammar said: "We believe that the American side is not fit to launch any initiatives because it provides the political, moral and military cover for the Israeli aggression. Any American initiative is naturally in line with the Israeli conditions... We assert our basic principles to continue our resistance so long as occupation of our land remains."

America has refused to criticise the Israeli offensive and repeatedly blamed Hezbollah rocket attacks for provoking Israel. A State Department spokesman said: "What we would like to see is an agreement by Hezbollah to stop the rocket attacks. We believe that if Hezbollah agrees to do that in good faith, there is reason to believe that Israel would also be willing to comply."

# Defiant few remain in frontline ghost city



In the bombed city of Tyre, Michael Theodorou discovers a mood of grim fatalism as Israel returns to the attack

"ALLAH be with you," said the nervous young Lebanese soldier manning an anti-aircraft position, as he waved us into Tyre, a virtual ghost city on the last active front line in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

There had seemed little to fear as we approached on the deserted coastal road. Farmers still picked crops in the citrus groves and banana plantations and street traders sold foam mattresses to the homeless. "Dream Well" said one sign.

However, within minutes of entering the city, once the centre of the ancient Phoenician civilisation, the boom of an Israeli warplane breaking the sound barrier shook the ground. Our alarm provided some scornful amusement for a group of Lebanese and Palestinian men lounging out-

side a rundown café with blown-out windows. They had experienced much worse in past days and years.

Tyre, usually home to more than 200,000 people, was occupied by Israeli forces for three years after their 1982 invasion of Lebanon. Since Sunday's Israeli ultimatum for everyone to leave, the city and several villages surrounding it, have suffered an average of 90 air raids a day. Like mildly curious sightseers, the group of men stirred themselves to watch an Israeli

Apache helicopter gunship swooping low over a village south of the city.

There was a distant rumble and a plume of dense smoke which rose above the wooded hills of the Jebel Amal, the Hills of Hope.

"Lucky Strike" read a cigarette advertisement hoarding over the café above a poster of Ayatollah Khomeini, the late Iranian leader. The air raids and artillery barrages continued all day. A convoy of five white vehicles with blue-helmeted Ghanajian-United

Nations peacekeepers screamed past, bearing humanitarian aid for some 6,000 civilians in southern Lebanon who have thrown themselves at the UN's mercy.

The ferocity of the blitz meant overstretched UN peacekeepers were unable to reach hundreds more people they feared marooned, hungry and short of medicine.

The mood of the few thousand who had remained in Tyre and braved the Israeli blitz that has filled its hospital with mostly civilian casualties was one of defiant fatalism. Some were grimly satisfied that Hezbollah has rejected an American ceasefire proposal and had continued to fire dozens of Katyusha rockets into northern Israel.

"The only language Israel understands is force," said

Mahmoud Kod, a student who added that he had remained in Tyre to show his support for Hezbollah.

Metulla, northern Israel: When Israel allowed Lebanese children to cross the country's northern border yesterday to receive medical treatment, some journalists present felt the operation was so stage-managed they could not report it (Ross Dunn writes).

The mission's objective was to show that Israelis care about the suffering of Lebanese civilians. Some journalists felt those coming across the border were being treated just as much by "spin doctors" as they were by medical practitioners. Never before has the international media been so deluged with information by the usually reserved Israeli military authorities.

Lib Dems predict strong showing  
investors! rail sell-off

**"Don't get an overdraft - get Quicken!"**

**"It's so easy to take control of your finances"**

We used to spend hours juggling our money. Working out how to pay the mortgage, what bills to pay, how much to save, or whether we could afford a new car all used to be so tedious. It took up too much time - our time.

Then a friend recommended Quicken

It's so easy to get to grips with your finances once and for all. Now we don't need to sort through piles of statements and receipts, or ask "where does all our money go?" Quicken is definitely what we needed.

It really puts us in control

Organising your finances with Quicken is fast, accurate and simple. With all your details in one place, you can see the "big picture" of your finances anytime and really take control of your money.

Learning Quicken is really easy

To get started, you simply follow step-by-step interviews. It couldn't be simpler - the screens look just like your cheque book and bank statements. And with Quicken's Deluxe on CD-ROM, real Quicken experts appear on screen to show you what to do - it's just like watching a video!

It saves you time...

You enter your regular bills and income just once, then simply add your spending as you go. Type the first letter of a transaction and Quicken fills in the details for you. Your account balances are updated automatically - it's like having a bank statement you never have to wait for (and never get a nasty surprise from).

...and ends your money hassles

Quicken makes your everyday financial chores easier. It'll print cheques for you, and with all your account details to hand, it's easy to check your bank statements and make sure the bank have got it right. Quicken even reminds you what bills to pay and warns you if you're likely to go overdraw.

Quicken shows you where your money goes

Quicken automatically categorises your spending. To find out where your money really goes, simply click on the question you want answered and Quicken summarises your spending in colourful graphs or reports. Click again and it gives you every detail of your spending.

Helps you make better decisions and choices

Best of all, Quicken takes the uncertainty out of decision making. You know exactly where you stand financially at any time. With Quicken, it's much easier to plan your spending and decide how much you can save. No more arguments over who has been stretching the credit card limit!

It's great for your small business too

VT Returns, business reports and cash flow - Quicken can handle all the finances, leaving you to get on with running your business.

There are no risks with Quicken

Quicken is the UK's No. 1 best selling finance software and has over 6 million users worldwide. It even comes with free unlimited technical support, so you can talk to a Quicken expert if you ever need to.

Take a 60 day risk free trial of Quicken

Buy Quicken now and you're not 100% satisfied, you can return it within 60 days for a full refund. You've got nothing to lose - except your overdraft!

Call us free on **0800 072 7336** & quote Ref QNTT

Order by fax: 0181 759 2477  
Order by Post: System box contains with your cheque or credit card details to Family Ltd, Manor Court, High Street, Stonehamstead, West Sussex, PO16 8AP.

NEW Quicken 5 £34.95

Try Quicken risk-free for 60 days

**INTRODUCING STEPDOWN. THE REVOLUTIONARY NEW CREDIT CARD WITH THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING INTEREST RATE.**

**18.4% APR**  
**17.9% APR**  
**17.4% APR**  
**16.9% APR**  
**16.4% APR**  
**15.9% APR**  
**15.4% APR**

If you're regularly paying interest on outstanding balances, the Stepdown Card could save you money and increase your spending power. It offers:

- A low interest rate - only 18.9% APR\* for purchases (compared with 22.3% APR for a Barclays Standard Visa Card, and 23.4% APR for a NatWest Standard Access Card).
- Stepdown - with this revolutionary new feature, our rate is cut by 0.5% every six months till it has shrunk to only 15.4%.
- That's our reward to you for loyalty to us. All you have to do is spend an average of £200 a month or have an average statement balance of over £1,000 a month, and keep to the terms of your Card Agreement.
- No Annual Fee.
- Special Welcome Offer - pay off any existing balances at only 12.9% APR, fixed for 6 months after opening your account!

\*Rates quoted may vary.

Call free now or send the coupon for information on cutting your charges. If you call we can take your application directly. (Please have your bank sort code and account number to hand)

**0800 399 399**

**HAMILTON**  
Direct Bank  
A Division of HFC Bank plc

Send to The Stepdown Card, Freepost, PO Box 3606, Birmingham B1 2XX

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

**Is it true that men have become such wimps that the only power left to them is to say no to sex? Giles Coren reports**

AFTER the recent sperm-count scare, which revealed that men are becoming less able to procreate because of ubiquitous artificial oestrogens, global warming and tight trousers, a new report has driven the final nail into the coffin of what was once the male sex myth.

A study by the marriage guidance service Relate claims that the incidence of impotence has been rising steadily, as it were, over the past ten years (one in four men in psychosexual therapy complain of the problem), and that the cause of this is purely social. "There has been a significant increase in power for women," says a Relate therapist, commenting on the findings. "And this has led to disorders in male desires, with them feeling uninterested in sex."

Among other explanations, it has been suggested that men may feel that the only power left to them is the power to say "no" to sex. While this is clearly reactionary sexism, it does reopen some of the old wounds of the sexual revolution. As well as some of the questions.

Can a powerful woman make a man feel so uncomfortable that he is unable to perform sexually? Can the existence of female superiors in the office operate a general emasculation that he takes home with him in the evenings? And does this mean that an environment of social and professional equality compromises traditional sexual relations? The trouble, as ever, is getting any sense out of men.

Taxi driver Mark Law, 34, sees it like this: "When you've got a bird in the back of the cab your first thought is always 'what are my chances'. But when it is a woman with a briefcase who wants to go to Biggs, then it's strictly hands off, know what I mean? They don't do anything for me. But I'm sure I could, if I had to."

Vic Harper, 27, is a foreign



The classic question... but now it is being asked by men who are worried that the growing power of women at work is threatening their masculinity

# Why successful women fail to turn men on

exchange dealer in the City. "This is a tricky one," he says. "Looking around me I can't see a single woman in the dealing room. The only ones in this company are secretaries. But if I had a powerful boss I can't imagine I would feel emasculated. I would consider it a challenge to seduce her."

"However tough she seemed to

be at work, I suspect she'd be a pussycat in the bedroom. I think it would make her much more attractive, more of a challenge... a touch of the Sharon Stones."

What if his own girlfriend suddenly became powerful, returning from work late, in a pinstripe suit, after a hard day's asset stripping? "I'd fancy her even

more, and pounce on her the moment she got in. It's like having a 32-year-old when you are only 16 — the ultimate high — but as you get older, power replaces age as the thing that makes a woman exciting and, in a way, frightening. It's something extra to brag about to your mates, and if you encounter operational difficulties due to an

inferiority complex, well, you don't tell them that, do you?"

The experience of Dr Thomas Stuttford suggests that a number of men may be concealing their failures in this way. He cites a survey taken among farming families in which the women were found often to be frigid, but the men very potent. "When these

families moved to the city," he says, "the women got jobs and lost their frigidity, only to find the men had become impotent. I saw a lot of this when I was working in a VD clinic. It is all because men are brought up, wrongly, to think of themselves as stags and the women as receptive hands. But when that balance is challenged the men — particularly

those with fragile self-esteem — start having trouble." This problem does not afflict photographer Robin March, whose girlfriend is a successful journalist. "I can't say I've noticed any qualitative difference in my performance," he says. "A woman is only a woman, after all. They just have different buttons."

Meaning you have to press different emotional buttons, so to speak, to generate sexual responses in women of different statuses?

"No, I mean they have different buttons. A successful woman has lots of big Chanel buttons down the front of her power suit. A student has the fly-buttons on her jeans. And a really cheap date will have no buttons at all, just a zip."

It seems that the onset of second-generation Laddism has blown away the sexual reticence of the early 1990s, and men are forced to profess sexual interest in any animate object that crosses their path. Who knows, maybe Patsy Kensit's fame causes even Liam Gallagher trouble in bed? But would he admit to it?

Unlikely. It would be like Macbeth admitting that he had not had a tumble since his wife took an interest in politics. "Unsex me here!" she cried, and repeatedly cursed her femininity. The logic of Macbeth equates power with masculinity, and to get her way Lady Macbeth had to become a man. Now, everyone knows that Macbeth's inactivity was actually a metaphor for his sexual impotence: he simply could not perform for such a powerful woman.

Rodney Logan, a 26-year-old pilot, has encountered similar problems. "One of my instructors, on an important flight test, was a very lovely young German," he says. "I knew that she fancied me, and felt that I was obliged to impress her with my flying to confirm her desire. It all got rather steamy. But there were a thousand other things I should have been concentrating on. In the event, I made a mess of the flight, and when she did make a pass at me, I wasn't in the mood at all. So no test pass, and no hanky-panky." And what has he learned? "I have taught myself to be utterly oblivious to sex, and act on a strictly no-gender basis. Spending long hours alone in a subservient position with women in their late-twenties, the thought invariably comes up. But I have to pretend I have no balls. It is the only way."

□ Most mental patients are docile but can we predict when one will strike? □ Hay-fever sufferers should take early treatment

AFTER my father had qualified as a doctor he found that his duties severely interfered with playing cricket. His compromise was to accept a junior hospital appointment at Cane Hill, the psychiatric hospital in Surrey. At Cane Hill his clinical duties weren't arduous, he had plenty of time off to play cricket and was even able to organise a hospital side for the patients and staff.

One fellow team member, a schizophrenic, was a particular friend and as a result my father spent much of his time on the ward, chatting to him about cricket, life and psychiatric problems. One day after the usual jolly morning chat, my father was about to leave the room, but before leaving turned round to give a wave to

his team-mate. This gesture may have saved his life, for at that moment his fellow cricketer clubbed him with a long, thick sock which had been painstakingly filled with stones collected over many weeks from the cricket field. The sudden turn before leaving resulted in the blow falling on my father's shoulders rather than his head.

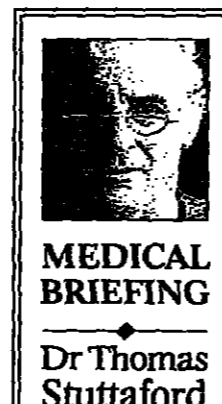
For the rest of his life my father used this story to illustrate his view that violence is not always predictable and that it requires more experience than he had at the time to notice any warning signs.

## Signs of violence

in the street or at work may seem unacceptable. Both Professor Coid's article and the commentary on it outline the factors which may help to predict which patients are more likely to be violent. This more detailed and careful assessment is essential. It might in the past have saved

my father his humiliating and potentially lethal attack, but if today it could be used to give greater selectivity when choosing those who are to be cared for in the community, the general public would be saved from having their fears unnecessarily aroused by the occasional act of violence.

The clinical indications of risk are numerous but paranoid persecutory delusions are the most obvious risk factor either when they result in the patient feeling under threat, or when patients feel that their minds are controlled by outside forces.



MEDICAL BRIEFING  
Dr Thomas Stuttford

WHEN the British Allergy Foundation decided to start its anti-hay fever campaign early this year, it had no way of knowing that spring would be so late.

Usually by the second week of April those who suffer from a streaming nose, red eyes and uncontrollable sneezing when they are confronted by pollen would have already been closing the windows and reaching for their dark glasses, while leaving it to others to wander idly beneath the cherry blossom.

The foundation's campaign is designed to encourage patients to commence taking their treatment before the hay-fever season has reached its peak, which normally corresponds to the time when the atmosphere is heaviest with grass pollens — in June and July.

Flowering trees and wild flowers also produce allergens which can cause trouble at any time from now until the autumn.

There is evidence that taking standard treatment before symptoms start, and not wait-

## Wheezes to defeat summer sneezes

ing until you are suffering from a blocked nose and watery eyes, is an important factor in ensuring that a normal outdoor life can be led throughout the summer.

The usual treatment, an anti-inflammatory nasal spray such as Becosane combined with the long-acting antihistamines, which do not

cross the blood-brain barrier and so do not cause sleepiness, are effective in 80 per cent of cases.

By starting to use them now, patients may not only avoid the serious consequences of hay fever — poor work performance, bad exam results and possible road accidents — but may also be able to enjoy a better social life. Sneezing into a sudden handkerchief has never done much to increase sex appeal.

WINNER OF TWO INTERNATIONAL GOLD MEDALS? (8)

SPONSORS OF THE TIMES CROSSWORD COMPETITION

## New digital Nokia. 100 hours of power!



**FREE 50 MINUTES PER MONTH CALLS** IN APRIL, MAY & JUNE

- NEW GENERATION DIGITAL NOKIA - replaces the proven 2010 model
- ONE SECOND BILLING - you only pay for the airtime you use
- MORE POWER - up to 100 hours standby-time, up to 3.5 hours talk-time
- BEST COVERAGE - with digital call clarity and security
- FREE ACCESSORIES - in-car adaptor and leather case together worth over £55

LIMITED OFFER  
**£9.99** INC. VAT

GUARANTEED PEACE OF MIND  
Your phone is covered by our 14 days no outside return policy guarantee.

ORDER NOW WITH YOUR CREDIT CARD DETAILS FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS  
**FREEPHONE 0800 000 888**  
CREDIT CARD ORDERING WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 7PM WEEKENDS 9AM TO 5PM

You can make a life worth living we just wanted you to know.

At The Children's Society, we know that little things can make a big difference. Take this ad. If everyone who read this little ad gave just £10, we could change the lives of thousands of young people. We could continue to provide safe places for children to play, family centres in areas of high unemployment, refuges for runaways, help for the abused, the homeless and those leaving Care.

And, if the people who can't spare money, could only spare a little time — take a few moments to reply to job applications, offer words of encouragement, or even just listen — they could help us make this country a better place, one child at a time.

If you care about children, you can help us care for them. We just wanted you to know.

To make a donation, or get more information, call the number below.

**The Children's Society**  
A little voice  
You can help. Call 0345 55 77 55

Car insurance over £300?  
Call Admiral now  
**0800 600 800**  
ADMIRAL

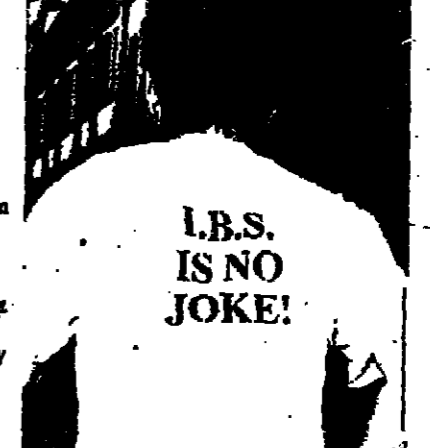
## IBS is no joke!

Neil Busby will run for the IBS Appeal in the London Marathon on Sunday 21st April to raise some much needed cash for our research and we thank him most sincerely for his help.

IBS - Irritable Bowel Syndrome - affects one person in five in the UK... that's about 11 million people. Its symptoms vary from diarrhoea, urgency, bloating, wind, constipation to dragging pain that can go on for days. Next to the common cold, it is the most common cause of time lost from work and costs the country about £500 million a year.

The Central Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust has set up a charity to raise funds to research causes and cures of IBS.

Every quarter, the Research Team publishes the IBS Bulletin which reports on their work and gives advice on how to manage this condition. An annual subscription is £10 for four issues including P&P.



The current issue covers:  
The economic costs of IBS  
A review and update of our research  
Diet and IBS  
MIR intolerance in IBS  
The effect of Wheat, Gluten and Yeast  
Does IBS cause depression - or does depression cause IBS?  
A case study on constipation

Please send your cheque for £2.50 made payable to IBS Bulletin to:  
IBS BULLETIN BACK NUMBERS (M4), CENTRAL MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL NHS TRUST GO, PO Box 18 East Street TNG 1XX.  
For further information please send S.A.S. to same address.

Other subject to full and standard terms and conditions of each phone with Cellphones Direct Ltd, 185 Lower Richmond Road, Richmond-upon-Thames TW9 4LN. Full written details and terms and conditions of the offer are available on request. © Copyright, Registered No. 295522.

# The other Yeltsin



The real Yeltsin

**E**ven the Muscovites are confused when the President's double steps out, says Richard Beeston

BORIS YELTSIN strode purposefully into the Moscow bar as a group of dozy waiters and waitresses snapped to attention with a look of disbelief on their faces.

The man who seldom ventures out of the confines of the Kremlin, unless he is escorted by a cavalcade of limousines and bodyguards, had wandered in off the street and ordered a large brandy. "I should get out and about a bit more like this," said the silver-haired Russian, nodding regally at the startled customers. "The people love it when they can see me up close."

The ruse would probably have worked, had Aleksandr Skorokhod, Yeltsin's look-alike, not been joined at that moment by a Lenin double, complete with goatee beard and worker's cap, who upstaged the performance with a noisy speech about world revolution.

"Typical of a communist," snarled Skorokhod amiably about his fellow impostor, with whom he often works in a double act. "They always want the last word."

Skorokhod entered a look-alike contest in 1990, along with hundreds of Lenins, Stalins, Reagans, Brezhnevs and Gorbachevs. Although he easily beat the other 28 contestants for the



It is him, or isn't it? Aleksandr Skorokhod (alias Boris Yeltsin) poses for the camera in a Moscow sauna

Yeltsin category, he was not fully convinced of his likeness until he tested it out on some unsuspecting Muscovites.

"I was walking down the Arbat (a famous Moscow street) with a guy from Kazakhstan who won the Ronald Reagan competition," he recalls. "I noticed that he had a button missing from his coat and that we were in front of a haberdashery shop. I went in, explained that the American President was outside and that we needed their help. The old ladies fell for it and got to work sewing on a new button."

A year later, when the Soviet Union collapsed and Yeltsin became President, Skorokhod, a retired engineer from southern Russia who survives on a £50-a-month pension, found

himself very popular. In the old days, a double's only role was that of disinformation — appearing in public in place of a desperately sick leader, for example. But post cold war, look-alikes are in huge demand. Skorokhod has had walk-on roles in six foreign films, including a bit part in *Police Academy VII*.

**H**e has reached such cult status in his home town of Taganrog that the local administration frequently invites him to attend public functions in an effort to lighten the atmosphere during VIP visits.

"When Solzhenitsyn came to visit our area I was introduced to him as the President," he

said. "The poor man started a long speech, before he realised he had been tricked. To give him credit, he thought it was very funny. The same is not true of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy (the ultra-nationalist leader), he was left speechless."

The more Skorokhod plays the role of the President, the more he finds he has in common with Yeltsin other than just the extraordinary similarity of his facial features.

"I was very surprised by how alike we are," he says. "We both worked as construction engineers, we were both in the Communist Party and we both like a drink and a joke. The two did meet once during the shooting of a film in Yeltsin's office, when the

Russian leader came into the room. "As we stood facing each other, a priest who was part of the film walked in and did not know which of us to address until he recognised the missing fingers on Yeltsin's hand from a childhood accident."

After six years of impersonating the Kremlin leader, Skorokhod's brief acting career could be in jeopardy, however, since President Yeltsin is trailing in the polls and faces a tough re-election battle this June.

"I have noticed that people have changed their attitudes to Yeltsin. They used to be much more enthusiastic," he says with genuine regret. "Still, he can be sure of at least one loyal supporter — me."

## Paul Heiney on why a charity's vital work has stopped

THIS morning the Archbishop of Uganda, Livingstone Mpalanyi-Nkoyoyo, on a goodwill visit to Bristol, will speak of the continuing urgent need of his country for fresh milk to combat malnutrition.

At the same time, we in Britain are busy devising schemes in which 15,000 cows can be sent to the incinerator every week for no scientifically proved reason, but to "restore confidence".

Forget for one moment, if you can, the uncomfortable juxtaposition of these two events, and think instead of one cow in particular. She was called Tutti; a black and white Friesian heifer bought two years ago by readers of this newspaper and sent to Uganda as part of an inspired aid scheme run by Send a Cow, the charity based in Bath. On your behalf, I went with her.

The moment I handed her over to her new keeper, Betty Kiwanuka, was unforgettable, not simply because of the tears in Betty's eye or

the singing of joyful hymns by the dozen children in her care, but because this was not a single gesture, rather the down-payment on a long-term investment that would not only supply milk for the family and village, but income for which she could buy education for her children and provide employment in her village.

It wasn't all bad news from the cow's point of view either: Send a Cow funds British-trained vets to oversee the training of the cows' new owners, teaches animal welfare and nutrition, and the growing of fodder crops. Given that the climate in Uganda is moist and warm and not overpowering despite its equatorial position, it is never steamier than a hot summer's day in Devon.

To prove the point, losses among cows exported to Uganda by Send a Cow are half what might be expected in a herd living in Britain. In other words, the gift of a cow brings food, health and wealth to those who need it most, and the cow is clearly

## Hope is put on hold for ten families

quite happy to do the job. Then came BSE, and the heart-stopping thought that what we had always assumed was an act of charity was yet another infliction on the people of Uganda.

They have suffered evil dictatorships, the civil war which decimated their native herd and Aids. They need BSE like a hole in the brain. With some relief, I can tell you that since BSE first became apparent in Britain in the mid-Eighties,

should now send their money to other charities." The answer is no. This year, because of the worldwide ban on the export of British cattle, no cows will be sent from Britain. Think what this could mean for the ten families who are eagerly waiting for this year's shipment. They have worked hard building a shelter for their cow, they have cleared land on their small farms in order to grow elephant grass and other forage crops, and they have been trained in its care. It has already cost them dearly from their tiny incomes.

They have lived in hope for over a year having seen the transformation the coming of the cow has brought to the lives of others. I have seen it myself. One family I visited had put two children through university from the sale of surplus milk from just one cow.

Betty, to whom Tutti was given, can now afford to buy sugar and salt to offer her guests. It may seem little,

but it matters a lot to her. "We are trying to source good cows inside Africa itself," says Georgia Clark. "We may be able to find some in Zimbabwe, but the decision has been taken that no cows will come from Britain this year."

I would not wish to be the one to break this news to the hopeful families in Uganda for whom the expected gift of a cow is the equivalent of a major lottery win. Send a Cow will work on, despite the ban.

It funds artificial insemination schemes to ensure the next generation of cows and trains field workers who buzz through the bush on motorcycles offering advice to cow owners.

But until the ban on the export of British cattle is lifted, the unique gift of the cow is on hold. Alas, as the Archbishop will remind a silent, concerned Bristol audience this morning, the need of the Ugandans is not

Send a Cow, Unit 4, Priston Mill, Priston, Bath BA 2 9EQ.

Read Paul Heiney's column about home cooking every Saturday in the Weekend section

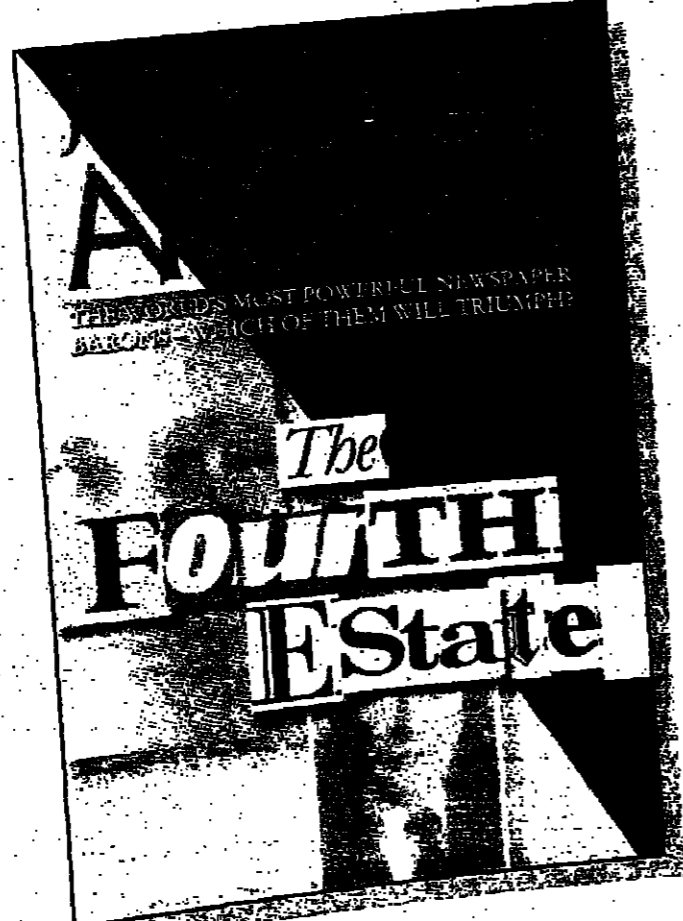


Paul Heiney and the cow that brought hope

THE SUNDAY TIMES

# EXCLUSIVE

SERIALISATION OF JEFFREY ARCHER'S  
NEW NOVEL STARTS ON SUNDAY



**Armstrong stared down at the green baize. He had already lost 40,000 francs that evening-but what was 40,000 francs when you had squandered a billion dollars in the past 12 months?**

The latest blockbuster from Jeffrey Archer is sure to top the bestseller list. Read it first in The Sunday Times.  
**PLUS** Order *The Fourth Estate* for £4 off the publisher's price, including p&p. The first 500 copies are signed by Jeffrey Archer

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

# Relief from arthritic pain at your fingertips.

Now, help is at hand for everyone who gets a touch of arthritic pain

Movelat Relief is the first topical treatment for mild to moderate arthritic pain available from your pharmacist without a prescription.

Movelat Relief has two powerful ingredients. One helps stop pain and inflammation, the other helps ensure the main ingredient passes rapidly through your skin to reach the painful joint.

So, next time you feel a touch of arthritic pain, smooth on Movelat Relief and soothe away the pain.

Ask your pharmacist about Movelat Relief today.

Available as Cream or Gel in 40g and 100g packs.

Always read the label.



# Movelat Relief

For the relief of mild to moderate arthritic pain.





COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 17: The Duke of Edinburgh this morning opened the Southampton Oceanography Centre, Empress Dock, Southampton, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire (Mrs Mary Fagan).

and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Herefordshire (Mr Simon Bowles Lyon).
Her Royal Highness, Patron, Dunn Nutrition Unit, last attended a collaboration between the Medical Research Council and Schools on Diet Exercise and Long Term Health at Hills Road Sixth Form College, Hills Road, Cambridge, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Middlesbrough (Mr James Crowden).

Royal engagements
The Princess Royal, as President of the Animal Health Trust, attended the second welfare symposium at the Royal Society at 9.45; as Patron of the International Health Exchange, will attend the annual meeting at the Royal College of Nursing at 4.35; and will attend the HAC's annual dinner at Armour, House at 7.30.

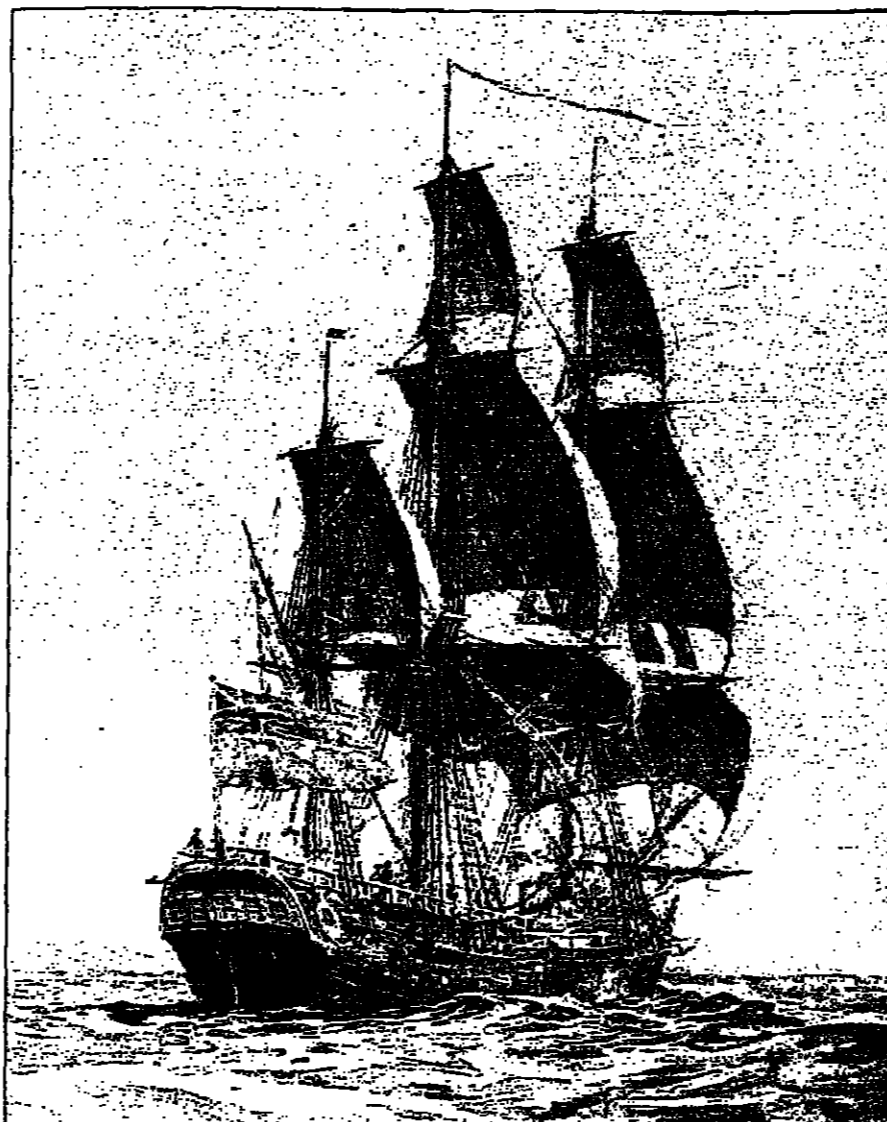
Banquet
Lord Mayor
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayors gave the Easter banquet last night at the Mansion House in honour of Members of the Diplomatic Corps and their spouses. The speakers were the Lord Mayor, the Apostolic Nuncio and Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

Captain Cook's ship is banned from her home port

Owners fear replica may run aground

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE OWNERS of a replica of the ship in which Captain Cook made his most famous voyage are refusing to allow her to moor at Whitby, where the Endeavour was built 230 years ago.
A £7 million replica of the ship was to put into the North Yorkshire port at the start of a journey retracing the captain's first voyage to the South Seas in 1769.



The good ship Endeavour, on which Captain Cook explored the world

But after a series of unfortunate accidents and harbour bottlenecks elsewhere on her cruise, the Australian trust which owns the replica has banned her from small tidal moorings like that at Whitby. Instead, when the 97ft long, three-masted sailing vessel arrives next year she will have to anchor offshore.
The news has angered Whitby folk and generated a flurry of faxes and phone calls between Scarborough Borough Council, which saw the visit as a great tourism coup, and the Endeavour Foundation in Fremantle, Western Australia.

bottom exposed, but there is also a dredged channel and deep-water moorings for the commercial ships which regularly collect and deliver cargoes here.
Peter Barton, the council official responsible for the borough's harbours, said that a series of options had been sent to Fremantle to encourage the Endeavour to dock. "We have offered them moorings where the commercial ships tie up and elsewhere. They have been guaranteed a place where the ship will float even at the lowest tide. We have also offered them a place on a bank of soft silt which would not cause them any underwater damage."



Cook claimed Australia for Britain

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.J. Atter and Miss J. Aberron
The engagement is announced between Rupert, son of Mr and Mrs S.J. Atter, of Ampfield, Hampshire, and Julie, daughter of Mr and Mrs E.G. Aberron, of Virginia Water, Surrey.
Mr A.E. Beattie and Miss J.A. Mitchell
The engagement is announced between Andrew Edward, only son of Mr David K.M. and Dame Heather Beattie, of Lynton, Cheshire, and Julie, daughter of Mrs Elizabeth Cowl, of Moberley, Cheshire, and Mr Ivor J. Mitchell, of Finsbury, USA.
Mr J.C.H. Berry and Miss A.J. Robbins
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mrs Robert Murdoch, of Wester Hill, Linton, Kent, and the late Mr John Berry, and Ashley Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Robbins, of Bethesda, Maryland, USA.

Marriages

Mr E.W. Chaffell and Miss F. McLean
The marriage took place quietly on April 17, at Stratford-upon-Avon, Oxfordshire, the son of Mr E. Chaffell and Mrs J. Chaffell, of Stratford-upon-Avon, and the daughter of Mr and Mrs M. McLean, of Stratford-upon-Avon.
Mr G.B. Peacock and Miss A.L. Ward
The engagement is announced between Graeme, younger son of Dr and Mrs G.B. Peacock, of Highgate, Chichester, and Alex, second daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Ward, of Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan.

School news

Dever College
The Summer Term begins at Dever today. Simon Rastrick (Leamington) is Head of School and Speech Day will be Saturday, May 25, when the Prizes will be presented by the High Sheriff of Warwick Mr Robin Baker White.
Headington School, Oxford
The Summer Term begins today. There will be a concert in the Holywell Music Room on May 8. Juliet Allen will give a Recital in the School Hall on May 9 in aid of the school's South African Netball Club. There will be a Drama Show on May 10. There will be a concert in the School Hall on May 16.
Headingtonians' Day is June 8. Foundation Day is June 28. The Reverend Alec Knight, Archdeacon of Salisbury, will preach at the Foundation Day Service in the afternoon in the Sports Hall which will be opened by Olyinka Idowa, Headingtonian, member of the 1992 British Olympic Team as a long jumper, and in the evening there will be a show entitled Midwinter's Eve. The end of the Midwinter's Eve Service is on July 4. The Netball Tour of South Africa is from July 17 until August 4.

Reception

The Cricketer International
Mr and Mrs Ben Brockwell and the Directors of The Cricketer International held a reception yesterday in the Long Room, at Lord's Cricket Ground, to mark the 75th anniversary year of the magazine. Among those present were:

Dinners

The Royal Academy
The Duke of Kent, KG, GCMG, GCMG, Royal Fellow of The Royal Academy of Engineering, was present last night at Guildhall at a dinner in honour of Sir William Barlow, FRS, President of the Academy.

Memorial services

Mr Terence Cuneo
The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Charteris of Amisfield at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Mr Terence Cuneo, portrait painter, held yesterday at St Martin-in-the-Fields.
The Duke of Kent was represented by Mr Nicolas Adamson and Prince Michael of Kent by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Christopher Thompson.

Anniversaries

Births
St Francis Bering, bandleader, Larkston, Devon, 1948. Louis-Adolphe Thiers, 1st President of the Third Republic of France 1871-73. Marsellies, 1949; Leopold Stokowski, conductor, London, 1882.
Deaths
John Foxe, martyrologist, London, 1537; H.A.L. Fisher, historian, London, 1940; Albert Einstein, physicist, Nobel laureate 1921, Princeton, New Jersey, 1953; Ben Hecht, novelist and film writer, New York, 1964.

Stationers and Newspaper Makers

Brigadier Denis G. Sharp has been appointed Clerk of the Stationers' and Newspaper Makers' Company from September 1, 1996, in succession to Captain Peter James, RN.

Retirement

SSAFA
Prince Michael of Kent, President of the Council of the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Families Association, presided at a dinner given by the Council last night at Aspley House by permission of the Duke and Duchess of Wellington, to mark the departure of Major General C.R. Grey as Controller of SSAFA, who will be succeeded by Major General P.J. Sheppard.

Birthdays today

The Hon Michael Beloff, QC, President-elect, Trinity College, Oxford, 54. Dr Cecil B. DeLoach, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, 72. Mr Alan Devereux, former chairman, Scottish Tourist Board, 63. The Marquess of Donegal, 59. Mr Nick Farr-Jones, rugby player, 34. Miss Sylvia Fisher, 40. Mr Nick Fuller, former Commandant, Fire Service College, Moreton-in-Marsh, 60.

Luncheons

HM Government
Sir Nicholas Bonsor, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government yesterday at Lancaster House in honour of Dr Boris Stajic, Leader of Party for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Mid-Atlantic Club/English-Speaking Union.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMD'S: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

DEATHS

BIRTHS
BARKER - On April 16th, Sophie (née Thornley) and Charles, a son, William James Barker.

DEATHS

BATTIS - George Frederick very peacefully in his sleep at Christchurch Hospice on April 13th. Beloved husband of Kathleen, deeply devoted father, grandfather, and dear friend of many.

DEATHS

CUSHING - Professor George Frederick, At St Christopher's Hospice on April 12th. Beloved husband of Emerita Professor of London University, Service of St Christopher's Hospice, 1981-84.

DEATHS

LEWIS - Stella Curtis (née Leighton) on 16th April, 1996. Beloved mother of Patrick and Sarah, and grandmother of Susan and Christopher after a short illness, bravely fought, at St Michael's Hospice, Basingstoke.

FLATSHARE

BATTISSEA - a spacious flat, 3 rooms, 2 baths, 2 balconies, 1st floor, close to bus stop, shopping, and schools. Price £950 per month. Tel: 0171 278 2000.

Advertisement for 'PERSONAL COLUMN' with contact information and a large 'PERSONAL COLUMN' graphic.



NEWS

School standards warning

Sir Claus Moser, who made a speech six years ago which ignited public anxiety over education, said last night that standards had slipped still further since then.

The former Warden of Wadham College, Oxford, who is an adviser to the Prince of Wales and was the founder of the National Commission on Education, welcomed recent government initiatives in schools, but argued that underachievement had become even more serious since 1990.

Duchess says Duke is her bestest friend

The Duchess of York declared that she would remain "the bestest of friends" with her estranged husband as the couple, along with 28 other petitioners, were granted a divorce in their absence in the Family Division of the High Court in a hearing lasting less than three minutes.

Major stands firm

John Major, speaking in Prague, let it be known that he will resist pressure for radical right wing policies after the Tories' drubbing at the Staffordshire by-election last week.

Fascism beaten

Gianfranco Fini, leader of Italy's "post-Fascists" and the rising star of the election campaign, said the legacy of Fascism had been overcome and the tide was turning in his favour.

'Enemy alien' sues

A German-born pensioner who claims she was treated as an "enemy alien" and interned during the War has been granted legal aid to seek compensation from the Government.

Forgotten Chernobyl

Ten years after the world's worst nuclear accident at Chernobyl, the region around the crippled reactor looks like a forgotten battlefield. But the fight to contain radiation continues.

Bulger hearing

Michael Howard pondered to popular public outrage when he ordered that the schoolboy killers of James Bulger should be detained for a minimum of 15 years, the High Court heard.

The Golden Greek

The shipping magnate Stavros Niarchos often said "I feel Greek" but he was oddly stateless and travelled the world in luxury as the wandering Golden Greek.

Gulf War damage

Chemicals used to protect soldiers from nerve gas and desert insects during the Gulf War could have caused neurological damage, new research finds.

Imran takes guard

Cancer patients returned to Imran Khan's hospital in Lahore as the cricketer turned politician considered the impact of Sunday's bomb attack.

Kenwood protest

Sir Jocelyn Stevens was urged to resign as chairman of English Heritage unless he apologised for mocking patrons of London's Kenwood House.

Pacific pact

Japan and the US issued an historic declaration to strengthen their defence alliance and maintain peace and prosperity in Asia and the Pacific.

Lost birdsong

Millions of Britain's best loved songbirds are disappearing from gardens and the countryside, victims of intensive farming, pollution and building.

Israeli battlecry

Israel's most senior military officer in Lebanon urged the Israeli Prime Minister not to order a swift end to Operation Grapes of Wrath.

Dishing the dirt on art cleaning

The National Gallery, which will this month unveil a major restoration, was attacked for its "secretive" art cleaning policies and for a series of scientific "blunders" since the War that have altered the look of Old Masters including works by Titian, Veronese and Giampietrino.



John Prescott and Tony Blair at the launch of Labour's local election campaign at Millbank Tower in London yesterday.

BUSINESS

Power: Southern Company, the US utility, appeared poised to reshape the electricity industry after confirming its intentions to take over National Power.

SPORT

Rugby union: Pilkington will continue to sponsor England's senior knockout competition for a further three years.

ARTS

Monkey business: Bruce Willis is the time-traveller in Terry Gilliam's complex futuristic extravaganza, Twelve Monkeys.

FEATURES

Seeing double: When Alexander Skarokhod strolls around Moscow people stop and stare, for he is the exact double of Boris Yeltsin, the Russian President.

MARKETS

Jobs: The Government maintained that unemployment is falling at a steady rate of about 10,000 a month.

FOOTBALL

Football: Duncan Ferguson, of Everton, will not play in the European championship finals for Scotland.

FAUST

Faust redeemed: The singing redeemed Welsh National Opera's staging of Gounod's Faust.

BODY AND MIND

Turn off: Relate says the increase in male impotence has much to do with the greater number of powerful women.

ECONOMY

Economy: Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, both said they stand ready to raise interest rates again if necessary.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

American football: William "The Refrigerator" Perry has been displaced in the London Monarchs team by an English player, Lewis Capes.

CANADIAN CHIC

Canadian chic: Top choreographers are represented in Les Grands Ballets Canadiens at Sadler's Wells.

HOME COMFORTS

Home comforts: Our new Thursday page of home entertainment has reviews of the new videos and classical CDs.

MARKETS

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 19.7 points to close at 3805.6. Sterling's trade-weighted index remained unchanged at 83.6 after a rise from \$1.5082 to \$1.5085 but a fall from DM2.2766 to DM2.2738.

RACING

Racing: A Jockey Club investigation failed to identify the causes of the deaths of ten horses at the Cheltenham Festival.

TRAVEL

Tourist rationing: Tanzania plans to take steps to stop its most famous wildlife sights from being damaged by tourists.

NO-GO AREAS

No-go areas: Airlines and tour operators are cancelling visits to the parts of Lebanon and Israel affected by fighting.

BOOKS

The 20th century: Malcolm Bradbury on the chronicler of America; Martin Gilbert on Jerusalem; the aloofness of Milan Kundera; Michael Sissons: from school to the trenches.

THE PAPERS

Will the war of the "mad cow" become to John Major what the Falklands War was to Margaret Thatcher?

THE PAPER

Israeli attack; the monarchy; matters of class.

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES
EDUCATION
Gillian Shephard sets out the Government's plans for raising educational standards

ROCK

Nearly God, Tricky's moody extra-curricular "project", is reviewed by David Sinclair

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,145

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

THE TIMES WEATHERCALL

Table with regional weather forecasts for various UK regions like Greater London, Kent, Devon, etc.

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will be cloudy with outbreaks of rain. The east and southeast will start dry but rain in the west will make erratic progress eastwards.

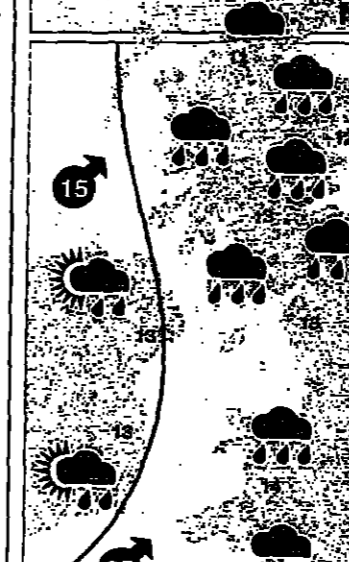
AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing traffic conditions around Britain yesterday, including routes like London, Manchester, Birmingham, etc.

MOON TODAY



HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table of highest and lowest temperatures for various locations.

ABROAD

Table of weather forecasts for various international locations like Mexico, India, etc.

HIGH TIDES

Table of high tide times for various coastal locations.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table of hours of darkness for various locations.

ACROSS

- 1 Economist goes by jet - he needs to strike while the iron is hot (10).
- 9 A rigid back (6).
- 10 Flog anklebone of Greek undergoing torture (8).
- 11 Languish in jail, perhaps, on private bunk (5-3).
- 12 Artistic conclusion a medic backs (4).
- 13 We should look forward to something, and be realistic (4,4,2).
- 15 Survive being dismissed, as it happens (7).
- 17 Jerky start in crossing (7).
- 20 This I'll sit foolishly in non-alcoholic surroundings? (10).
- 21 Anti-American slogan showing sense (4).

DOWN

- 2 Sign worker installed inside shed (4-2).
- 3 Comprehensive head initially overwhelmed by abuse (5-3).
- 4 Sort of house, not flat (5-5).
- 5 Establish how visiting President, for one, should be received (7).
- 6 Hurt right inside thigh (4).
- 7 Brave and strong, like Van Gogh, partly (8).
- 8 Establishes legal digest (10).
- 12 The prospect of the rack? (10).
- 14 I bet to make unknown amount with cash (3,2,5).
- 16 With discretion, brought up name that's on tip of tongue (5-3).
- 18 Peerless item unchosen, remarkably (8).
- 19 Elects to play by ear at first on this? (7).
- 22 Political grouping has succeeded in producing harmony (6).
- 24 Continuous bad feeling in teachers' centre (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,144

BRAVO LOCALCALL
AMEAOALIA
ROUNDSMEN ZIPPY
NSISIAENE
SLEEPINGPARTNER
TAAAIUH
ORALLY BRUSHOFF
RTSERA
MAHOGANY PENNON
WAITINGFORBOD
EATEN INORGANIC
LIONSEGA
DECALOGUE DMELIL

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING. Recycled paper made up 34.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1995.

Preview: Three years on, survivors recall the Waco siege. Wireless (Channel 4, 9pm). Review: Matthew Bond on double bass notes that say it all. Page 47

Tense times: The Government aims simply to get through the summer by hoping that the Ulster Unionists stay on side and the Grim Reaper stays away. That frustrates natural pugilists on both sides. Page 21

Italian radicals: Italy's second republic cannot take shape without constitutional radicalism: Fini and Berlusconi offer the clear better alternative in this respect. Page 21

On with the dance: Our cricketers are a bad joke, our best footballers are foreigners, and our rugby players have become better at scoring fees than tries. But at ballroom Britain is still world champion. Page 21

WILLIAM REES-MOGG: Nowadays adultery is quite fashionable, and it is thought priggish to speak ill of such a national institution. Yet there is no doubt that adultery causes alienation in marriage. Page 23

MAGNUS LINKLATER: The conventional liberal view is that homosexuality is merely a variation on the sexual scale, that for a man to be gay is as acceptable as for him to be straight. This is the view Sullivan challenges. Page 23

PETER RIDDELL: Brian Mawhinney's attack on Sue MacGregor on the Today programme was symptomatic of the nervousness at Conservative Central Office. They are adopting the wrong approach. Page 8

JOHN BRYANT: There is something childlike about a marathon runner. What excites the thousands queuing to register for the London Marathon is a bag full of free goodies. Page 46

Stavros Niarchos, shipowner; Sir William Wilkinson, chairman of the NCC; Sir Stephen Miller, ophthalmic surgeon. Page 23

Israeli attack; the monarchy; matters of class. Page 21

Will the war of the "mad cow" become to John Major what the Falklands War was to Margaret Thatcher? - Le Monde

Israeli attack; the monarchy; matters of class. Page 21

Israeli attack; the monarchy; matters of class. Page 21

Israeli attack; the monarchy; matters of class. Page 21

Israeli attack; the monarchy; matters of class. Page 21

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring a portrait of a man and the text 'Huge plan' and 'Unemployed steadily'.





KALETSKY'S LABOUR 29

What a Blair government would mean for business



TRAVEL 34, 35

A new policy to protect the beasts of the bush



BOOKS 40, 41

John Updike's chronicles of contemporary USA

McCOLGAN'S MARATHON AMBITION SPORT 42-48

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY APRIL 18 1996

Huge regulatory hurdles to be overcome before offer can be made for generator

Americans plan National Power bid

By Christine Buckley

SOUTHERN Company, the US utility, yesterday appeared poised to reshape the electricity industry after confirming its intentions to take over National Power, Britain's largest electricity generator.



Eggar: golden share

The move by the Atlanta company puts pressure on the Government, just as it is making its mind up on whether National Power and PowerGen should be allowed to take over regional electricity companies.

A full takeover by Southern of National Power could be worth up to £3 billion and is expected if the generators' bids for the regional electricity companies are cleared.

chance of moving on Southern Electric, for which the UK generator has bid. Although sources close to the US company reject that as the ultimate aim, the fit between National Power and Southern (UK) is better regarded than a link with Sweb, a stake in which Southern is looking to sell.

If the DTI throws out the generators' bids for the regional companies, thereby scuppering Southern of the US plans for vertical integration Southern could turn its attention to water, it is believed.

Some analysts in the City, which is divided over whether Southern will easily clear regulatory obstacles, believe the aggressive company is moving for the option on an all-out assault on the UK electricity industry and could want control over National Power, Southern (UK) and an interest in Sweb.

Southern rushed out a statement after midnight talks between Tom Boren, chief executive of its overseas division and John Baker, chairman, and Keith Henry, chief executive of National Power. Its next step will come after the ruling by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, on the generators' takeovers.

While a price still has to be negotiated, Mr Baker is already looking at a profit of nearly £900,000 on share options held. Mr Henry, who joined the company recently, does not have options disclosed in the annual report.

National Power was reluctant to comment yesterday beyond stressing that Southern could not move until after the DTI ruling.

Southern said only that it was interested in a combination of the businesses although a takeover is thought the only route. The DTI said a review of its golden share would be taken if there was a need to do so. It declined an assurance that it would hold on to the share which is timeless.



Tom Boren, Southern's overseas chief executive, met National Power chiefs at midnight



John Baker, left, who is looking at £900,000 in share options, with Keith Henry

A tough company from the South

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

SOUTHERN of Atlanta, Georgia, is one of the largest and most aggressive of the US utilities. Its markets stretch far across the American South. It is the parent of five electricity concerns and involved in cable and telecom joint ventures and nuclear power.

In 1991, it sacked Jeffrey Hamburg as head of Southern Electric International, its overseas subsidiary, for "alleged unethical business practices" connected with an SEI bid for a Portuguese power plant. Mr Hamburg sued for \$20 million for defamation, arguing that he was a scapegoat in the company's attempt to prove that it was whiter than white.

When it sacked Mr Hamburg the company said that it was anxious to maintain a clean record in business practices. This was hardly surprising since in the late 1980s it had been charged with several ethical and tax violations that had attracted the scrutiny of the taxmen and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

It is natural that the ambitions of such a large company should turn to foreign markets, particularly at a time when tight regulation at home is making it harder to earn the kind of profits to which Southern is used. It was typical of Southern's aggression that it was the first US company to buy a British utility, leading the way to a spate of bids by other American companies.

Its ownership of South Western Electricity (Sweb) has also encountered controversy via Sweb's aggressive marketing campaign in the run-up to competition in the domestic gas market in the South West. The campaign drew a large number of complaints and Sweb was forced to withdraw its doorstep sales drive.

Southern applied to the SEC last year for exemption from a rule that prevents American utilities from earning over 50 per cent of their profits from overseas. Last year, its earnings topped \$1 billion, with revenues of more than \$7 billion.

BUSINESS TODAY

Table with columns for STOCK MARKET INDICES, US RATE, LONDON MONEY, and STERLING. Includes data for FT-SE 100, Dow Jones, Federal Funds, etc.

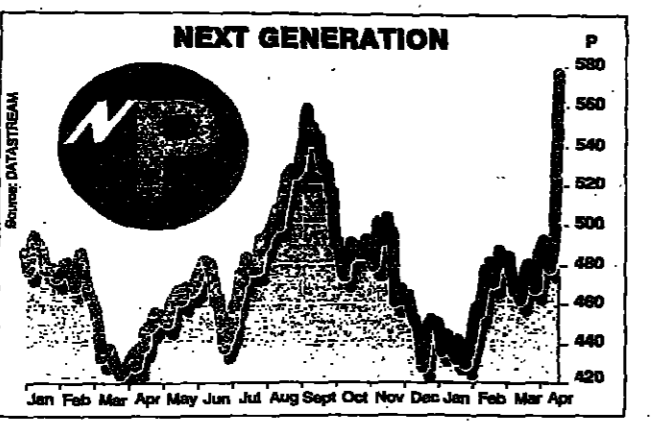
Table with columns for BREIT 15-day (Adj.), GOLD, and LONDON CLOSE. Includes data for Brent 15-day, Gold price, and London close.

Woolwich meets

The Peter Robinson affair is likely to dominate today's annual meeting of the Woolwich Building Society. However, lawyers acting for Mr Robinson said the former chief executive would not attend. The issues to be raised include the external report now being prepared by KPMG, the accountant, and Linklaters & Paines, the solicitor, on the circumstances of Mr Robinson's departure.

Sea Express

The environmental and economic costs of the Sea Express disaster on the coast near Milford Haven two months ago could be as high as £64 million, according to estimates provided by the oil industry.



Unemployment figures falling 'steadily' at 10,000 a month

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE Government maintained that unemployment is falling at a steady rate of about 10,000 a month after a surprise rise in joblessness announced last month was followed yesterday by a larger-than-expected fall of 25,700 in the number of people out of work and claiming benefit.

claimant unemployment was also revised downwards yesterday, from 6,800 to 5,500.

Gillian Shephard, the Employment and Education Secretary, said that the two months' figures were consistent with the assessment by the Office for National Statistics of a downward trend of about 10,000 a month. "Britain has now entered its fourth successive year of steady growth in jobs and falling unemployment," she said. Average earnings rose after

seven months of flat growth of 3.25 per cent. Revisions to the figures mean that for the last month or two, earnings in manufacturing and service industries are now seen as rising at a rate of 3.5 per cent — the rate at which earnings across the economy are now increasing.

Some City analysts suggested that the upturn in average earnings growth could be the start of a continuing trend because the rise — albeit a gentle one — in pay settlements has not yet fed through into earnings growth.

Yesterday's fall in the unemployed count — the 35th in 39 months — takes unemployment to its lowest level since April 1991. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate fell from 7.9 to 7.8 per cent of the workforce, its lowest level since May 1991.

Whitehall officials suggested that the ending of industrial action by civil servants, the continuing impact of invalidity benefit and a five-week month all had an impact on the size of the fall. Unadjusted unemployment in March fell 72,167 to 2,330,799.

Michael Meacher, Labour's Shadow Employment Secretary, attacked the Government over the fall, saying: "Government ministers may make much of any fall in the unemployment figures, just as they try to ignore any rise. Of course, the movement in the official figures is now too erratic to draw any firm conclusions."

Don Foster, Liberal Democrat employment spokesman, said the figures showed that "Britain's economy remains in a fragile and lacklustre state". New manufacturing jobs figures showed rising employment, and separate statistics from the Government's quarterly Labour Force Survey for the three months to February showed a 94,000 fall in unemployment and a 118,000 rise in employment.

PIA aims to hasten mis-selling review

By Robert Miller

THE City watchdog responsible for overseeing the £4 billion personal pensions mis-selling review has given warning of a "serious" disciplinary crackdown on firms failing to make "sufficiently rapid progress".

The warning from the Personal Investment Authority, which polices firms selling direct to the public, coincided with details of the first compensation payments to be made for mis-selling personal pensions announced by the Investors Compensation Scheme. Of seven firms "declared in default" by the ICS, a mechanism to trigger compensation payments, Du Bara Investments and Individual Savings & Insurance Services are understood to involve more than 1,000 transfer cases. This is where investors were advised to leave generous occupational schemes for a private plan.

In the case of Du Bara, it is understood that dozens of former miners, who had been made redundant by their colliery in Nantgarw, Mid Glamorgan, were approached to leave the Mineworkers Pension Scheme in 1989.

The PIA said that, to date, about a million cases of mis-selling had been identified, of which 392,000 were in the priority category. So far, compensation has been offered in 7,000 cases and £6.7 million has been paid out.

Further rate cut unlikely

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, agreed to cut rates at their monetary meeting last month, but both said they stand ready to raise rates again if necessary.

Their statements, contained in the minutes of the March 7 meeting published yesterday, convinced the money markets that no more cuts in base rates can now be expected. Sterling futures had priced in another ¼-point cut, but moved sharply away from that view yesterday.

clearer evidence that growth had begun to accelerate. Mr Clarke was neutral. Although he said that he stood ready to put rates up later this year if necessary, he said his position remained "that he would continue to be ready to move rates in either direction as the evidence justified".

The markets interpreted the remarks, along with recent data on the economy suggesting a genuine pick-up in consumer demand, as calling the end of lower rates in this economic cycle. The markets are now looking for base rates of about 7.25 per cent in a year's time.

Large advertisement for solicitors with text: 'Had an Accident? Making a claim won't cost you an arm and a leg!' and contact information for 'SOLICITORS'.

# IMF says slowdown poses threat to EMU

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

THE International Monetary Fund yesterday expressed concern that the economic slowdown in Europe is compromising the ability of Germany, France and others to meet the criteria for monetary union in 1999.

In its semi-annual *World Economic Outlook*, the fund revised down its forecast for world growth this year to 3.8 per cent from the 4.1 per cent it had expected in October, a move that largely reflected disappointing developments in the European economies.

The fund said that there is room for further reductions in interest rates in Europe to boost growth and counterbalance the dampening effect on economic growth of budget deficit cutting programmes designed to meet the Maastricht treaty's fiscal criteria for entry into monetary union.

It said that the fiscal targets are still feasible provided economic growth picks up as it expects. The fund is projecting that world growth will recover

to 4.3 per cent in 1997. Germany, expected to grow by just 1 per cent this year, should see growth of 2.9 per cent in 1997 while French growth should accelerate from 1.3 per cent this year to 2.8 per cent next year.

But the fund said that it will not be easy to hit the Maastricht targets and that there could be more turbulence ahead for the French franc.

"Qualification by a sufficiently large number of countries is by no means assured," it said, suggesting that the fiscal targets might be interpreted liberally to ensure that monetary union goes ahead on schedule.

It suggested, for example, that governments should focus on the structural component of their deficits rather than actual deficits which have been swelled by extra social security and unemployment benefit payments because of economic slowdown.

The European growth problem specifically relates to those countries whose currencies shadow the mark closely. Countries outside the exchange-rate mechanism have outperformed those inside it, Britain and Italy being prime examples. It suggested that there was scope for some appreciation in both sterling and the lira.

The fund predicted steady American growth, forecasting 1.8 per cent growth this year and 2.2 per cent in 1997. But it said that there was a significant risk to the US recovery if President Clinton and Congress fail to reach agreement on balancing the US budget.

The IMF was also positive about Japan, with growth of 2.7 per cent predicted for this year and 3.1 per cent next year. This compares with only 0.9 per cent in 1995. The fund applauded the sharp fall in the yen after the record levels seen a year ago.



Lord Tugendhat said the home loans market showed signs of only a moderate pick-up

## Abbey chief cautious on housing market

By Robert Muller

LORD Tugendhat, chairman of Abbey National, yesterday cautioned against an over-optimistic view on prospects for the UK housing market this year.

He told the bank's annual meeting that while the level of mortgage applications received had been "encouraging" the home loans market as a whole still only showed signs of a "moderate pick-up".

Lord Tugendhat, whose salary rose to £263,762 last year against £242,393 in 1994, said that the Abbey National Bank Account continued to perform well, with an average of more than 10,000 new accounts being opened every month. Abbey National has also issued 30,000 of its new Visa credit cards since the February launch.

Lord Tugendhat said that the two major fiscal milestones in 1995 were a pre-tax profit of more than £1 billion and the rise in assets to top £100 billion. The 2.4 million shareholders, who can expect a dividend payout of 21.75p per share for the full year, have seen the value of 100 free shares handed out at the time of the former building society's stock market conversion in July 1989 more than quadruple, Lord Tugendhat said.

Voting on the proposed takeover of the National & Provincial Building Society last week attracted an impressive turnout, with 83 per cent of eligible savers and 71 per cent of borrowers voting in favour of the deal.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Lloyd's application to postpone lost

LLOYD'S of London yesterday lost its application to postpone a crucial High Court action on the grounds that delay would not disadvantage the market's attempt to settle with its litigating names. The case centred on whether Lloyd's has the right to seize directly any court awards made to successful litigants. That is rather than names receiving the compensation awards and deploying the funds as they see fit.

Thousands of litigating names have already won damages from a string of High Court actions. However, the funds are being held in escrow until the outcome of Lloyd's £2.8 billion-plus settlement offer is known. In an attempt to capture the money directly, Lloyd's amended names' premium trust deeds and it is the legality of this change that is being tested.

## Designs on a quote

DONNA KARAN is joining other fashion designers who have launched shares on the stock market recently, taking advantage of the boom in luxury goods. The New York designer plans a global share offering worth about £230 million in the early summer. This is the second attempt. The original offer in August 1993 was pulled after the retailing downturn. Donna Karan had sales of \$510 million last year. Morgan Stanley and Bear Stearns are lead managers.

## Havelock Europa ahead

HAVELOCK EUROPA, the maker of bank and shop interiors, saw profits rise 32 per cent to £5.3 million before tax. Bank of Scotland was its main customer as it replaced 1980s-style bullet-proof glass counters with open-plan, carpeted suites in 50 branches. Deals with Lloyds TSB and the Co-operative Bank almost quadrupled Havelock's banking sector, providing 44 per cent of turnover. The total dividend rises to 3.6p a share from 3p, with a 2.4p final. Earnings were 13.5p a share (11.2p).

## TeleWest to take on 1,000

TELEWEST COMMUNICATIONS, the largest cable company, plans to add about 1,000 employees this year, raising its workforce to 5,000, as it expands its network. Most of the jobs will be created in engineering and installation, customer services and sales and marketing. Separately, Nynex CableComms, the industry's second-largest player, said it had raised its cable TV and cable telephony penetration rates in the quarter to March 31. Total revenues rose 92 per cent to £32.5 million.

## LDV accelerates

LDV, the van manufacturer, launched out of the collapsed Leyland DAF group, said pre-tax profits for 1995 rose £5 million to £23.2 million after a 43 per cent increase in turnover. Vehicle sales rose 21 per cent to more than 15,000 last year, with exports starting to have an increasingly beneficial impact on the company's trading performance, according to Allan Avey, the chief executive. LDV has created 500 new jobs and doubled output over the past three years.

## New look AT&T results

AT&T, reporting results for the first time since it announced an important restructuring, lifted first-quarter profits 14 per cent to \$1.4 billion. The results omit subsidiaries it plans to sell or demerge. The earnings, equal to 90 cents a share, came on revenue of \$12.9 billion. A year earlier, the comparable units of AT&T earned profits of \$1.3 billion, or 80 cents a share, on revenue of \$12.4 billion. With the other units included, AT&T earned \$1.362 billion (\$1.198 billion), or 85 (76) cents a share.

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.02	1.85
Austria Sch	17.03	15.53
Belgium Fr	49.79	45.49
Canada \$	2.157	1.97
Cyprus Cyp£	0.750	0.685
Denmark Kr	9.41	8.81
Finland Mk	7.73	7.06
France Fr	8.14	7.49
Germany Dm	2.43	2.22
Greece Dr	367.00	362.00
Hong Kong \$	12.31	11.31
Ireland P	1.62	1.50
Israel Shk	5.190	4.500
Italy Lira	2481.00	2326.00
Japan Yen	177.70	161.70
Malta	0.561	0.536
Netherlands Gld	2.899	2.469
New Zealand \$	2.36	2.14
Norway Kr	10.42	9.62
Portugal Esc	245.00	226.50
S Africa Rd	6.95	6.09
Spain Pta	197.00	184.00
Sweden Kr	10.81	10.01
Switzerland Fr	1.93	1.81
Turkey Lira	115562	107552
USA \$	1.605	1.475

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

## Small firms more optimistic

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BRITAIN'S small businesses are showing signs of economic recovery, and their support for the Conservatives is growing, according to new survey evidence today.

Ministers will be pleased by the findings of the latest survey from Kingston University's Small Business Research Centre, one of the principal small business study centres in Britain, suggesting increased optimism and performance by small companies.

The Government and Labour have both been targeting the small business vote with a range of policy initiatives, and the latest Kingston study is the first measure of small companies' voting intentions since the two main political parties intensified their campaigns in advance of the forthcoming general election.

Previous surveys by Kingston have shown that, while the Conservatives are the most popular party, small business

support for the Tories is about half the level it was in the early 1980s and that the gap between the parties has been narrowing.

But the latest Kingston survey for Office World, the stationery supply company, shows improved support for the Conservatives — up from 27.5 per cent last November to almost 32 per cent now.

Labour's support is steady at 26.5 per cent, while the Liberal Democrats have slipped from

14.9 to 13.7 per cent. Almost 30 per cent of small business owners refuse to give any voting commitment.

However, small firms are feeling more confident. Their optimism about the economy has leapt from 39 per cent in November to 56 per cent in what the study says is the first sign of an improving "feel-good" factor since the summer of 1994. Small firms are also more optimistic about taking on new employees.

OTHER AIRLINES MAY ALSO CONNECT YOU TO 125 U.S. CITIES



BUT ONLY ONE COLLECTS YOU

Fly Continental Airlines BusinessFirst via New York or Houston and the First Class treatment starts at your door with a chauffeur driven car to London Gatwick, Manchester, and other principal U.K. airports.\* It continues on board with a First Class sleeper seat in First Class space with First Class service. And the First Class treatment goes on and on to over 125 U.S. cities, where a limousine will meet you — proving that we have the best connections. As well as the best connections. All for a Business Class fare. See your travel agent or call Continental on 0800 747800.



Continental Airlines

\*Limousines are available to full fare paying passengers who require travel and purchase tickets in the U.K., Ireland, Isle of Man, Jersey & Guernsey up to a 50 mile radius of London Gatwick and Manchester and 40 miles of other principal airports, as well as all major U.S. destinations served by Continental. Limousines may be required in advance.

"...in the THREE MONTHS UP TO THE END of December 1995, 1,033,668 patients were waiting for up to 11 months, and 20,829 for between 12 and 17 months."

"Patients who cannot accept an offered admission date are said to be self-deferred and returned to the bottom of the in-patient WAITING LIST."

"Waiting lists do not always arise through mismanagement of resources, they arise because resources are inadequate."

"THE HOSPITAL SAYS YOU CAN HAVE A BED STRAIGHT AWAY."

FOR STRAIGHT TALKING PRIVATE MEDICAL INSURANCE

PLEASE RETURN COUPON TO: NORWICH UNION HEALTHCARE LTD, FREEPOST, CHILWORTH HOUSE, HAMPSHIRE CORPORATE PARK, TEMPLARS WAY, EASTLEIGH, HAMPSHIRE, SO63 3DG.

SURNAME ..... FIRST NAMES and title .....

ADDRESS .....

POSTCODE .....

Tel. (day) STD .....

Home tel. STD .....

DATE OF BIRTH .....

If you would prefer to see one of our Sales Advisors, please tick the box  Data that you provide may be used by NU Group Companies, your insurance intermediary or other relevant organisations for marketing purposes such as market research and contacting you regarding your future insurance needs.

NORWICH UNION

No one protects more.

INSURANCE, INVESTMENTS, HEALTHCARE, PENSIONS. 1991 1995

UNION HEALTHCARE OR ALTERNATIVELY FILL IN AND SEND

PLEASE CALL FREE ON 0800 42 42 42

Signet long-ten

IBM suffers drop in ear

Robinson c

DTI must act on power mergers City goes sour on rate cuts The great ostrich disaster

# Electric shock treatment

□ THERE is a pleasing irony about Southern creating the most serious political problem yet for the Government from the round of utilities bids. For this was the company which, in a serious misjudgment, was first allowed into the sheep pen.

The Americans launched the first successful bid for a British regional electricity company in July. That bid should have been blocked to allow a thorough inquiry into the carve-up of British utilities that was clearly inevitable. It was not, mainly because no one in authority could think of a good reason.

The bid opened the gates for all the others, each more suspect politically. The defining moment was when the first approach by a generator for a regional company, the ScottishPower assault on Manweb, was waved through. By the time the DTI had got up the nerve to put a couple to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, the carve-up was beyond stopping.

So the situation now throws up several embarrassing anomalies. As this column pointed out only yesterday, Southern as an American is rather better placed to take control of the country's biggest power generator than most indigenous rivals. This is because any American offer, on pure competition grounds, should be allowed, but any

British bidder will almost inevitably be operating in a similar industry, so the interests of competition policy require a reference to the MMC.

The second embarrassment is that a Southern bid could be referred or blocked entirely on public interest grounds — had the Government, not once but twice, tacitly accepted such a move. In 1991, ahead of privatisation, PowerGen's directors were cutting up nasty; they were threatened with purchase by Hanson, an Anglo-American combine. Earlier this year British Energy were doing likewise; enter Duke, a Texan utility, as possible buyer and with ministers' blessing.

So there is no logical reason to block any bid, should it emerge and should Southern, as it has promised, ration itself to the regional company already in the bag, South Western. How the DTI must wish there was. It is probably as well that the Energy Minister there, Tim Eggar, is not standing for re-election next time. But the sight of US mega-utilities rampaging through the electricity industry sacking

people as they go will not play well in marginal constituencies.

The timing of any Southern bid for National Power is going to be tricky, as the two generators' own approaches on Midlands and Southern of the UK are still tentative. As the whole world knows what line the MMC has taken, a swift DTI decision is essential. This would allow firm bids to be made and agreed, and Southern of the US to make its move. Shareholders in National Power and Southern UK could then reach what decisions they choose. There is quite enough uncertainty in the markets already.

**Turning point for the markets**

□ THE latest batch of economic figures may come to be regarded as something of a turning point, for yesterday the financial markets finally gave up hope of another cut in interest rates in this economic cycle.

The ingredients in this change of heart included another healthy drop in headline un-



employment, but monthly figures are bouncing around wildly at the moment and it is hard to establish a firm trend. Then there was the long-awaited nudge up in average earnings growth from the 3.25 per cent which has prevailed since last April to 3.5 per cent.

Earnings growth has returned to the rate seen last June and is still below those prevailing in late 1994 and early 1995. But the 3.25 per cent figure has been an increasingly cherished talisman for Britain's inflation optimists, who saw it as an indication that the lid was firmly on, so some kind of spell may have been broken by yesterday's numbers.

There was the assertion in the minutes of the March 7 mon-

etary meeting by both Ken Clarke and Eddie George that, although they were cutting rates now, they stood by to raise them again if necessary. This is no more than a statement of the obvious, in the same way that a prosopon warns shareholders that prices go down as well as up.

The stock and gilt markets were reacting, therefore, in their usual kneejerk way, to the mere mention of higher rates — even if no betting man in the City expects higher rates ahead of an election. The closer that date gets, the harder it will be for the Chancellor to tighten money without sending his party into paroxysms. No politician behind in the polls wants their man to don the economic hair shirt.

What, then, of the view, widespread in the City until yesterday, that one more rate cut was in the bag? It may still be that current manufacturing dol-drams may reverse the favourable trends in employment and justify another cut. But if the economy carries on growing, after a fashion at least, there seems little mileage left in the belief, given that warfare in the

building society industry is delivering low mortgage rates without the need for a move from the Chancellor.

**Investors who stick heads in the sand**

□ PROFESSOR Jim Gower, architect of the Financial Services Act, summed it up. The object of the Act, he said, was not to prevent fools losing their money, but to prevent reasonable people being made fools of.

This is one reason why ostriches do not rate a mention in the FSA. Another is that a decade ago no one could envisage investing in them, any more than in a collection of classic cars or any of the other off-the-wall ideas that have parted investors from their money since then.

It is possible to feel real sympathy for those who have put up to £75,000, in some cases their life savings, into the Ostrich Farming Corporation, now the subject of a winding-up order by the DTI. It is not possible to understand such foolishness. Investment

spans a vast spectrum from the downright idiotic at one extreme, Nigerian scam letters and their like, to legitimate bonds and shares at the other, and the rewards that are claimed always reflect the degree of risk.

At various points along this spectrum, but all clearly at the riskier and more rewarding end, have been classic cars, timeshare apartments, BCCI and Barlow Clowes, even a weekly flutter on the National Lottery. Ostriches too were situated at the speculative end of that spectrum, and comments in the financial press reflected this high risk.

The recommitments that have followed the collapse of the Ostrich Farming Corporation, as investors attempt to identify and take possession of the birds they thought they owned, do not change these simple rules of investment. Nor, one suspects, do they prevent the whole sorry story being repeated again and again elsewhere.

**The next bet**

□ SPEAKING of the naive hopes of some investors, a caller to this office yesterday had this simple inquiry. Did we know which building societies were still independent — and which would be the next to be taken over? No, but if you ever find out, do let us know.



Open to offers: Signet, headed by James McAdam, is considering bids for H Samuel and Ernest Jones

## Signet results could end long-term financial crisis

By PAUL DURMAN

THE rebel shareholders in Signet Group, the jeweller that owns H Samuel and Ernest Jones, believe yesterday's good results offer the company a chance to put an end to its long-running financial crisis.

Julian Treger of the UK Active Value Fund, which leads a concert party that controls 24.1 per cent of Signet's voting rights, said the two UK jewellery chains should very easily command a price of £300 million when they are sold in the next few weeks.

Mr Treger said this should allow Signet to repay preference shareholders the £510 million he says they are owed.

"There seems to be enough for everyone to go round," he said.

Signet, headed by James McAdam, is considering offers for H Samuel and Ernest Jones, from bidders including rival jewellers Goldsmiths and Argos. Mr McAdam said Signet was under no pressure to sell and would only do so if it could realise the "strategic worth" of the 600 stores.

The group made annual pre-tax profits of £25 million, a 74 per cent improvement. Operating profits rose 30 per cent to £63.9 million, but Signet was burdened by £38.9 million of interest payments on its debt, which it has trimmed

back to £308.2 million. Signet has refurbished nearly all of the 167 Ernest Jones shops, and these are showing a 24 per cent improvement in like-for-like sales in the first ten weeks of this year.

The total United Kingdom market is showing a 7 per cent increase, while the 433-store H Samuel is only 1 per cent ahead. Signet will shortly start introducing a new shop design to H Samuel.

In the United States, Sterling increased its profits by 39 per cent to £45.9 million, with margins climbing back above 8 per cent.

Signet is anxious to simplify its complex capital structure

which includes nine classes of shares. It owes £135 million on its preference shares and is unable to pay dividends.

Walker Boyd, finance director, said the £90 million of ordinary shares represent only a quarter of the full market value of the company.

Improved United Kingdom profits of £18.1 million (£11.4 million) showed the benefit of the sale of the loss-making Salisbury's travel goods chain.

Signet said that the underlying profits of the United Kingdom jewellery business also rose, by 15 per cent to £27.2 million, in spite of a 1.5 per cent fall in sales. Its margins rose to 8 per cent.

## RJR Nabisco raider admits defeat

BENNETT LEBOW, the corporate raider, has conceded defeat in his battle to force RJR Nabisco to spin off its tobacco business from its food side (Richard Thomson writes from New York).

His unexpected capitulation means that his strategy of settling tobacco-related law suits at Liggett, his own company, which caused uproar in the tobacco industry, has failed. His aim was to persuade RJR to follow suit.

The settlement, the first of its kind, backfired because it opened the floodgates to cases against other companies, which caused tobacco share prices to plummet and angered RJR investors.

## Bell Atlantic and Nynex close to \$22bn merger

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

BELL ATLANTIC and Nynex are expected to announce a \$22 billion merger in the next few days, creating the second link-up between two US regional telephone companies since the deregulation of the telecoms industry.

Insiders say that the two companies, which dominate the east coast market in local telephone traffic and have been in intermittent talks for months, are close to agreeing a price at which Bell Atlantic would use stock to buy Nynex. It would be one of the largest deals in US corporate history, catapulting the merged company into second place in the industry behind AT&T.

Bell Atlantic-Nynex would have more than 36 million customers, \$3 billion in earnings and more than \$27 billion in annual revenues. As well as consolidating their hold on the east coast to fight off competition from the long-distance companies, Bell Atlantic and Nynex would be in a stronger position to break into the long-distance market after merging.

The proposed merger is further evidence of the intense pace of consolidation within the US telecoms industry after new rules that allow the so-called "Baby Bells", which control local phone traffic, and the long-distance operators such as AT&T and Sprint to pene-

trate each other's markets. A month ago there were seven "Baby Bells", but after the latest merger there will be only five. Analysts expect further mergers in the near future.

Previous talks between Nynex and Bell Atlantic founded on the question of price, but analysts believe Nynex may now have accepted a deal at around its current share price of \$51. This already has a substantial bid premium factored into it, which is similar to the premium SBC is paying for PacTel. Atlantic Bell has resisted Nynex's demands for a higher premium on the grounds that there are no other bidders for Nynex.

## IBM suffers \$500m drop in earnings

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

IBM, the world's biggest computer manufacturer, suffered a \$300 million drop in net earnings in the first-quarter of this year because of sluggish markets and delays in switching to its new mainframe computers.

Although revenues climbed from \$15.7 billion to \$16.5 billion, net earnings fell to \$774 million. "We turned in a good but uneven performance," said Lou Gerstner, the chairman and chief executive. He said that revenues grew in all geographic areas and shipments of Lotus Notes, which IBM purchased for more than \$3 billion last year, had more than trebled. "At the same time, though, our overall hard-

ware revenues and margins were disappointing," he said. This was mainly because of the transition to the company's new mini-mainframe computers, the System/390 and AS/400. Weak demand for personal computers in the US and continuing downward pressure on prices for many products eroded the company's profit margins.

The results did not damage the perception that IBM was successfully recreating itself after several disastrous years of falling profits and market share. Many computer companies have been hurt over the past few months by declining sales and tighter margins.

## Lloyds TSB waits on New Zealand bid

By ROBERT MILLER

LLOYDS TSB Group is expected to learn today whether its bid to buy Trust Bank of New Zealand has been successful after a last minute counter-bid by Westpac of Australia.

Trust Bank has been studying the merits of the Westpac bid, understood to be a cash deal, against that of the long-standing offer from National Bank of New Zealand, a Lloyds subsidiary. It is believed that the latter's bid is similar to that of the Lloyds acquisition of TSB which was, in effect, a reverse takeover paid for with shares instead of cash. Some analysts believe that a third party, ASB Bank,

which is 75 per cent owned by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, might also be still in with an outside chance.

Since the formal bidding for Trust Bank started some weeks ago the price tag has risen to about NZ\$1.5 billion or £676 million.

The final decision on the preferred bidder rests with the nine community trusts that control nearly 80 per cent of Trust Bank.

Lloyds TSB said last night: "We never comment on market rumour." If the UK group is successful in its bid for Trust Bank it will become New Zealand's largest bank with assets of nearly NZ\$24 billion.

## Robinson clouds Woolwich AGM

By ANNE ASHWORTH AND ROBERT MILLER

THE Peter Robinson affair is likely to dominate the agenda at today's annual meeting of the Woolwich Building Society. However, lawyers acting for the man at the centre of the controversy said the former chief executive would not attend.

The issues to be raised include the external report now being prepared by KPMG, the accountant, and Linklaters & Paines, the solicitor, on the circumstances of Mr Robinson's departure last month. The society will not yet disclose contents

of the report to members, claiming it contains confidential information, which is likely to irritate the assembled members.

Henry Clinton-Davis, of D J Freeman, the law firm representing Mr Robinson, said only a limited amount of information concerning the allegations against his client had been handed over so far. Until the full report has been received and studied, Mr Clinton-Davis said no further comment would be made. Mr Robinson and his legal team are understood to have taken counsel's advice on compensation for loss of his £320,000 post.

The continuing uncertainty over Mr

Robinson's successor has made the Woolwich a prime takeover target. Among those with a clear interest in acquiring the £3 billion society could be the Prudential, the Royal Bank of Scotland and the Halifax. However, Abbey National has said it will not bid. A European or Australian institution might also want to get involved. The Woolwich says no customer has, so far written or called to criticise the move to oust Mr Robinson. Head hunters compiling a shortlist to replace him are looking not only at building society executives but also those experienced in running FT-SE 100 companies.

For more than a century and a half, Patek Philippe has been known as the finest watch in the world. The reason is very simple. It is made differently. It is made using skills and techniques that others have lost or forgotten. It is made with attention to detail very few people would notice. It is made, we have to admit, with a total disregard for time. If



Men's Calatrava - Ref 3910

a particular Patek Philippe movement requires four years of continuous work to bring to absolute perfection, we will take four years. The result will be a watch that is unlike any other. A watch that conveys quality from first glance and first touch. A watch with a distinction: generation after generation it has been worn, loved and collected by those who are very difficult to please; those who will only accept the best. For the day that you take delivery of your Patek Philippe, you will have acquired the best. Your watch will be a masterpiece, quietly reflecting your own values. A watch that was made to be treasured.

**PATEK PHILIPPE**  
GENEVE

London: Patek Philippe Showroom, Asprey, Garrard, Watches of Switzerland Ltd. • Stratford-Upon-Avon: George Pragnell Ltd. • Scotland: Hamilton & Inches Ltd., Watches of Switzerland Ltd. • Channel Islands: Hettich Ltd., Jewellers & Silversmiths Ltd. • Belfast: John H. Lunn Ltd. • Dublin: Weir & Son Ltd. • Chester: Boodle & Dunthorne • Leeds: Berry's.

STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

Shares fall as hopes of rate cut are dashed

GOVERNMENT bonds and equities fell sharply on the London stock market as the prospects of another early cut in interest rates took a knock.

FOR SALE VANSTONS 21 4805 2228 9292

mortgage lending to grow 4 per cent in 1996. Abbey shares lost 9p to 577p.

The falls would have been greater had it not been for the takeover spotlight falling on the electricity sector.

Abbey has seen signs of a pick-up in the housing market 348p, and Severn Trent, down 11p at 592p.

Any remaining hopes that Signet is poised to complete the proposed disposal of Ernest Jones and H Samuel jewelry chains were quickly dashed by James McAdam, chairman, who said the company would make an announcement in due course.

The falls would have been greater had it not been for the takeover spotlight falling on the electricity sector.

This latest move also lived up to the other power generators with PowerGen jumping 29p to 599p, and the partly paid 20p to 459p.

The group confirmed some time ago that it was looking for prospective buyers for the business which could raise upwards of £300 million.

City speculators are talking of a 700p bid, valuing the company at almost £8 billion.

Whitbread advanced 10p to 734p as BZW switched its recommendation from a hold to a buy.

An encouraging statement on current trading at its annual meeting lifted Dixons Motor 40p to 257p.

MAJOR INDICES

Table with columns: Index Name, Value, Change. Includes New York (Dow Jones, S&P Composite), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London (FT 100, FT-SE 100, etc.), and London: FT 30.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues with columns: Company Name, Price, Change. Includes Abnrol Emerg Asia, British Smaller Cos, Cambridge Wtr, etc.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table listing rights issues with columns: Company Name, Price, Change. Includes Barrat Dev n/p, Barmore n/p, etc.

MAJOR CHANGES

Table listing major changes with columns: Company Name, Price, Change. Includes Cantab Pharms, N Brown, Austin Reed, etc.

TEMPUS The cash cow market

A JUBILANT equity market was slapped down yesterday by good employment figures and Kenneth Clarke. The Chancellor would dearly love to cut lending rates in time to create a "feel-good" momentum.

A change of government. Companies have been handing cash back to investors in the form of special dividends, buy-backs and takeovers. These have taken the overall cash yield on shares to about 7 per cent compared with a dividend yield of just over 4 per cent.

Smiths Inds.

SMITHS INDUSTRIES could stake a claim to be the least-known company in the FT-SE 100 index, but it is also one of the best regarded.

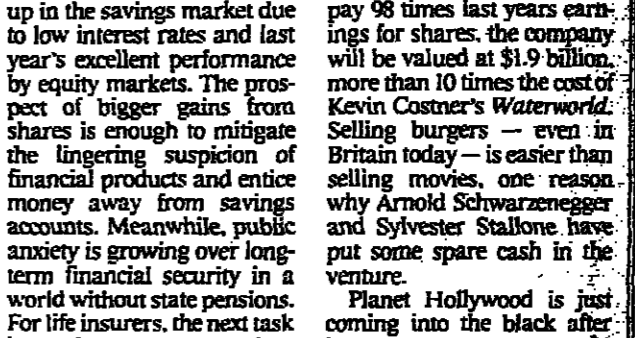
Prudential

PUBLIC cynicism towards financial products is giving way to both greed and anxiety about penury in old age.

Planet Hollywood

PLANET Hollywood's public share offer bears all the features of the launch of one of the blockbuster movies from which the company draws inspiration.

BETTER BEING BUSINESS



Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including COCOA, ROBUSTA COFFEE, WHITE SUGAR, MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION.

COMMODITIES (continued)

Table of commodity prices including CRUDE OILS, WHEAT, BARLEY, POTATO, RUBBER, BIFFEX.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures including FT-SE 100, FT-SE 250, Three Month Sterling, etc.

DOLLAR RATES

Table of dollar rates for various countries including Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, etc.

WALL STREET

Table of Wall Street market data including major indices and individual stock prices.

LIFE OPTIONS

Table of life options including various contracts and prices.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Table of London metal exchange prices for various metals.

MONEY RATES (%)

Table of money rates for various currencies and terms.

OTHER STERLING

Table of other sterling rates for various countries.

FT-SE VOLUMES

Table of FT-SE volumes for various sectors.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table of European money deposits for various currencies.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Table of gold and precious metals prices.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates.

April 17, 1996 FT-SE Cable 34205. Ptd 27.72 FT-SE Cable 5111. Ptd 109.94

THE TIMES THE CITY DIARY A matter of priorities Big spender Brody's trail Back to school





# Confidence grows at Smiths Industries

By PAUL DURMAN

SMITHS INDUSTRIES, the aerospace and medical instruments group headed by Sir Roger Hurn, has continued its strong progress with a 19 per cent increase in interim pre-tax profits to £69.5 million.

Smiths, which recently joined the FT-SE 100 index of Britain's leading companies, reported improved profits and margins in each of its aerospace, medical and industrial divisions.

Sir Roger, chairman and chief executive, said: "The outlook for all three business groups remains strong and gives me confidence that Smiths Industries will continue to grow and to produce



Sir Roger Hurn says the outlook for Smiths Industries, which reported interim pre-tax profits 19 per cent up at £69.5 million, remains strong

# Control of Trafalgar passes to Kvaerner

By MARTIN BARROW

KVAERNER, the Norwegian offshore engineering and shipbuilding group, will today take control of the day-to-day management of Trafalgar House, the British shipping and construction conglomerate.

Eric Tonseth, president of Kvaerner, said it would take three to four weeks to complete a reorganisation of the management of Trafalgar House.

He added: "We now want to start co-ordinating operations to make a stronger and more powerful Kvaerner. At the same time, we will sell the assets that we do not want to keep." Although Kvaerner has not given precise details of likely divestments, it is believed to be seeking a buyer for Cunard, Trafalgar's troubled cruise line whose vessels include *Queen Elizabeth 2*.

The takeover of Trafalgar was declared unconditional yesterday, with acceptances received in respect of more than 90 per cent of the ordinary shares and almost 95 per cent of the preference shares. Competition authorities in Europe and America have given their consent.

Kvaerner's cash offer for Trafalgar House, which was recommended by the Trafalgar board, was worth about £904 million, but the company will also assume Trafalgar's substantial debts.

Hongkong Land, Trafalgar House's main shareholder, gave its consent in respect of its 25.8 per cent shareholding.

Kvaerner has yet to declare what is to be the fate of its 26.1 per cent holding in Amec, the British engineering conglomerate, the legacy of a failed takeover late last year.

# Irish business boom lifts Ryan Hotels to Ir£2.8m

By FRASER NELSON

THE boom in business trips to Ireland, after the IRA ceasefire, has boosted annual pre-tax profits at Ryan Hotels by 43 per cent to a record Ir£2.79 million.

Corporate custom grew sharply last year, as the Dublin group increased the overall number of high-yielding executive suites by 11 per cent to cater for the business market.

Higher yields were also achieved by Ryan's hotels at Galway and Killarney, where the Ir£2.8 million spent on their leisure centres has commanded higher room prices. Its hotels in Amsterdam, Brussels and Hamburg all increased their profits, but were overshadowed by Ryan's strong Irish portfolio.

Room occupation was down 2 per cent to 74 per cent, but Connor McCarthy, chairman, said this came with the overall

# WH Smith invites agencies to pitch

By OUR CITY STAFF

WH SMITH, the retail chain, has invited advertising agencies to pitch for its advertising business. A decision is expected within two weeks.

Among those hoping to replace Bartle Bogle Hegarty (BBH), which stood down as WH Smith's agency in February, are believed to be Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO, BMP DDB Needham, Duckworth Finn Grubb Waters and Saatchi & Saatchi, the Cordiant subsidiary.

WH Smith is estimated to have spent about £11 million on advertising over the past year. The company, which

# ASB looks at asset valuations

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT FINANCIAL EDITOR

COMPANIES would have to write down assets if their worth fell below their balance sheet value even if the directors thought the fall might be temporary, under proposed new accounting rules. The change, if approved, would end the practice whereby companies revalue properties upwards in good times but are reluctant to incorporate property market falls.

Companies would not need to adjust the balance sheet values of their own factories and offices for a fall in the property market if the business they are used for is making reasonable profits. This should relieve companies from making constant revaluations because of changes in property markets.

**Impairment of Tangible Fixed Assets**, the latest discussion document from the Accounting Standards Board, also suggests a new way of estimating the net present value of assets in use, if companies fear that the market value of an asset is less than shown in the balance sheet. This would be based on discounting estimated future cash flows, as in the board's separate proposals for valuing goodwill.

Assets would only be written down if they were in the balance sheet at more than the greater of "present value" and their "net recoverable value". The latter may be less than the crude market value if selling it involves costs such as redundancy payments.

Under the proposals, writedowns for impairment need only be charged as losses if the updated valuation is lower than the asset's depreciated historic costs.

# Savings products boost new business at Pru

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

PRUDENTIAL'S sale of regular premium pension products in the UK increased 34 per cent to £866 million, the highest quarterly level for more than two years. Sales of regular contribution products were £71 million (1995: £74 million).

The Prudential said growth in single premium new business was driven by increased sales of annuities and non-linked savings products, in particular Prudence Bond and Evidence Savings Account. Sales of personal equity plans rose 67 per cent. These areas are to be the focus of future marketing and sales activities.

Sales of annual premium life and pension products fell 6 per cent to £59 million. Prudential has made no secret of



## You're used to successful meetings. So are we.

### LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**THE ASSOCIATION OF ACCOUNTANTS**  
Annual General Meeting 1996

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of the Association of Accountants will be held at the Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0EX, on Thursday 23 May 1996 at 11.30 am.

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF SELLER'S EXECUTOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

**C H GARDNER (CONVEYANCING) LTD**  
INCORPORATED IN ENGLAND  
Registered Office: 200-202 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0LP

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF:**  
CANTON LIMITED  
Company No. 2444003  
Dated 12th April 1996

**NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF:**  
CANTON LIMITED  
Company No. 2444003  
Dated 12th April 1996

**NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF:**  
CANTON LIMITED  
Company No. 2444003  
Dated 12th April 1996

Shares and gilts end lower

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of stock prices for various sectors including Alcoholic Beverages, Banks, Breweries, Pubs & Rest, Building & Construct, Building Materials, Chemicals, DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS, ELECTRICITY, ENGINEERING, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TEXTILES & APPAREL, TRANSPORT, WATER, and ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET.

Table of stock prices for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING & CONSTRUCT, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS, ELECTRICITY, ENGINEERING, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TEXTILES & APPAREL, TRANSPORT, WATER, and ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET.

International Internet Name Registry
Internet Name net names
Registration
To protect your company and trading names you need to register them now.
You wouldn't do business without registering your business name. NetNames will register your company and trade names for Internet use around the world.
Don't let others get there first. Register Now.
FREEPHONE 0800 269049
netnames@netnames.co.uk
http://www.netnames.co.uk

Table of stock prices for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING & CONSTRUCT, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS, ELECTRICITY, ENGINEERING, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TEXTILES & APPAREL, TRANSPORT, WATER, and ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET.

Table of stock prices for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING & CONSTRUCT, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS, ELECTRICITY, ENGINEERING, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TEXTILES & APPAREL, TRANSPORT, WATER, and ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET.

Table of stock prices for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING & CONSTRUCT, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS, ELECTRICITY, ENGINEERING, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TEXTILES & APPAREL, TRANSPORT, WATER, and ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET.

Table of stock prices for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING & CONSTRUCT, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS, ELECTRICITY, ENGINEERING, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TEXTILES & APPAREL, TRANSPORT, WATER, and ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET.



THURSDAY APRIL 18 1996

THE TIMES THURSDAY APRIL 18 1996

UNIT TRUST PRICES 33

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust information with columns for Name, Bid, Offer, and other financial metrics. Includes sub-sections like 'UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD', 'CAREWELL UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD', etc.

Handwritten Arabic text: 'الجمعة 18 أبريل 1996'

Support Services logo and text.

Support Services logo and text.

Support Services logo and text.

Support Services logo and text.

Support Services logo and text.

Support Services logo and text.

Support Services logo and text.

Support Services logo and text.

Support Services logo and text.

Support Services logo and text.

Support Services logo and text.

Support Services logo and text.

Support Services logo and text.

Support Services logo and text.

Support Services logo and text.

Support Services logo and text.

Support Services logo and text.

Support Services logo and text.

Support Services logo and text.

Support Services logo and text.

Support Services logo and text.

Support Services logo and text.

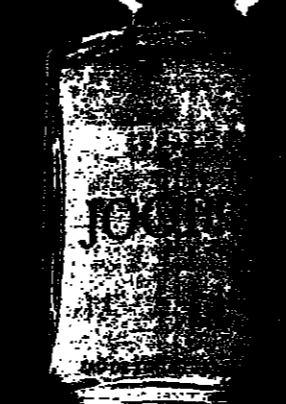
Support Services logo and text.

Support Services logo and text.

Support Services logo and text.

Support Services logo and text.

Support Services logo and text.



Small text caption below the photograph.

Support Services logo and text.

Support Services logo and text.

Support Services logo and text.

Support Services logo and text.







iff's delay



FILM 1 Time-travelling the complex way in Terry Gilliam's baroque new extravaganza, *Twelve Monkeys*



FILM 2 Plenty of smart Brooklyn talk in *Smoke*, Wayne Wang's screen version of a Paul Auster story

THE TIMES ARTS FILMS



FILM 3 ... but Meryl Streep and Liam Neeson flounder in the dreary family angst of *Before and After*



MUSIC Michael Tilson Thomas steers the LSO through the premiere of Robin Holloway's new work

# Something completely over the top

CINEMA: Geoff Brown sees Bruce Willis buried up to his bald head in the spectacular overkill of Terry Gilliam's *Twelve Monkeys*

Once upon a time, movie heroes were immaculately groomed and wore suits, shirts and ties. Now look at Bruce Willis in Terry Gilliam's unwieldy extravaganza, *Twelve Monkeys*. His head is shaved to reveal what Gilliam has called "the most beautiful cranium in the world". A prisoner's number is stamped above the left ear, a barcode on the back of the neck. Usually he wears grunge; sometimes, when time-travelling, he wears nothing at all.

- Twelve Monkeys**  
Warner West End  
15, 129 mins  
Terry Gilliam's unwieldy extravaganza
- Smoke**  
Lumiere, 15, 100 mins  
Agreeable talk piece written by Paul Auster
- Unzipped**  
MGM Shaftesbury Ave  
15, 74 mins  
Exuberant fashion documentary
- Before and After**  
Odeon Leicester Square  
12, 108 mins  
Streep and Neeson get the glums

stars. You never, in fact, feel much for the characters at all: partly because you can barely spot them among the garbage, graffiti, time jumps and surreal clutter. Gilliam hopes his film will give audiences the thrill of seeing something new. If spectacle were all we might well be thrilled; but if we want a film with a sense of purpose, control and a human heart, we must look elsewhere.

make the going more difficult than usual. Gilliam's directorial manner wreaks its own damage. He is one of the few film-makers around with a "vision", and the absurd chaos of *Twelve Monkeys* is of a piece with the worlds of *Brazil* and *The Fisher King*. His films never grow organically. One sequence, designed with breathtaking panache, is piled on top of another, and the tower topples over.

Like some Gothic architects, Gilliam does not know when to stop. One instance: having allowed Pitt horrible freedom to chew the scenery, acting mad with gesticulating hands, he then shoots the asylum scenes through a distorting camera lens.

Luckily, other performers keep their heads. Willis's unheroic, vulnerable role may bemuse *Die Hard* fans, but the man deserves praise for tackling adventurous material. As always, Stowe is fascinating to watch — feisty, vulnerable, elegant and earthy all at once — although you never feel the flames of romance flicker between the two



Which way did the plot go? Madeleine Stowe and Bruce Willis try not to panic in the time-travelling *Twelve Monkeys*

amounts to much, but *Smoke* is never less than pleasant. Documentary is such a grey word that it seems unfair to pin it to *Unzipped*, an exuberant portrait of fashion designer Isaac Mizrahi as he whizzes about New York creating a new collection. A true child of America, Mizrahi ravenously feeds off movies, and gets the idea for his 1994 autumn show from a television screening of Flaherty's silent classic *Nanook of the North*, one of the most venerable documentaries of all. Another key influence is Lorena Young's appearance in *Cell of the Wild*; although she's half-frozen in the tundra, the

ordeal leaves her poise and eyeliner untouched. Eskimo fur meets Hollywood kitsch, or, as Mizrahi puts it, "Giselle meets Fred Flinstone".

The last movie to ransack the fashion world, Altman's feeble *Prêt-à-Porter*, took a sour view of things. But the director of *Unzipped*, fashion photographer Douglas Kecke, clearly relishes the peacock egos, the drudgery and madness required to mount a show. It's no easy task. Intransigent fabrics must be cut, tailored and cajoled. So must the models, who dislike Mizrahi's notion

of changing clothes behind a transparent screen. Then, worst blow of all, Jean Paul Gaultier comes out with his own collection of Eskimo chic.

Through all the torments Mizrahi ploughs on; bubbling with humour and mimicry of movie stars. He's a great show in himself; and this joyful film, shot on the run with great panache by Ellen Kuras, does him proud.

The glum family drama *Before and After* does nobody proud, not its stars, Meryl Streep and Liam Neeson, nor its director, Barbet Schroeder. "I just want my boy back," Streep's paediatrician bleats. "I just want to hold him

again." Neeson, meanwhile, as her artist husband, wrenches his face in a way that suggests severe stomach ache.

The cause of all anguish is their teenage son, Edward Furlong, accused of murdering a local lass. Not that Furlong seems bothered; he blots his copybook as a rising star by walking through in a lazy daze, scarcely raising his eyelids or opening his mouth. His opposite number is Alfred Molina, the family's Greek defence lawyer, who rolls his eyes, twitches a bushy moustache, and eats a sandwich that passed the continuity girl by: in one shot you see it, in another you don't. Oh well.

RADIO

## Master with class

Yehudi Menuhin is the cause of my taking up the violin as a boy and putting it down again a few years later, having made little discernible progress. I wanted to sound like him, but he sounded so unlike me as to render the gap unbridgeable. Menuhin had an unfair advantage: he was a genius.

Next week Menuhin is 80, so Classic FM has gone to town. Menuhin: Master Musician (Saturdays) is in its second week... of 20. Each programme lasts an hour. This is the longest single-personality series Classic has mounted: 20 hours of Menuhin smacks of an overreaction to the common charge that Classic is a sampler station.

So it will be interesting to see if the series, written and presented by Humphrey Burton, has legs. Menuhin was all of seven years old before he made his concert debut (with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra) so, musically, we are looking at a career which has lasted a mere 73 years. He made his first record in 1928.

Thus far the series looks extremely promising. The emphasis is on the music and not only that of Menuhin. How splendid to hear the sounds of his boyhood heroes, Heifetz and Kreisler, so rarely heard anywhere on radio nowadays. Colleagues who report the criminal courts will be relieved to know that there is little risk of the luncheon recess being delayed on Wednesdays for the next five weeks. Chambers (Radio 4) is a new lunchtime comedy series which takes the legal profession to the cleaners.

John Bird stars as John Funder Carp, a ruthless head of chambers who is determined to become a QC. In this pursuit Carp does not so much confront moral dilemmas as leave his spectacles at home in order not to see them. No wonder there are so many lawyers in the House of Commons.

The comedic tensions are provided by Carp's naive assistant, played by James Fleet, and Lesley Sharpe as Ruth Quirkie, who joins the chambers intent on overhauling the entire legal system. The script is by Clive Coleman, a barrister and law lecturer, so he should know.

PETER BARNARD

## Charming Smoke

**SMOKE**  
James Lawson, 18: A very gente, charming film. Well-shot with wonderful dialogue. Jenny Dawson, 20: This was one of the most unusual films I've seen for some time. Really good, enhanced by Harvey Keitel and William Hurt's great performances. Thomas Stevens, 18: Uneventful, feel-good movie. Although the acting was superb, it was trite and a little dull. Chris Rushbrook, 18: Enjoyable — simply but effectively filmed.



world of fashion. This model-filled movie was fast and witty and well worth seeing. Thomas: There were funny moments and the film was well directed, but on the whole it wasn't particularly interesting or likeable. Chris: You have to know something about the fashion people in New York to fully understand it. The idea of mixing monochrome and colour didn't really work, but the use of old clips was groovy!

**UNZIPPED**  
Janie: I don't usually like documentary films, but this was an exception. The number of stars that appeared was amazing. Jeny: It provides an inspiring and frantic insight into the

## CONCERT

### On the Holloway road

LONDON has heard two major orchestral premieres a week apart. Robin Holloway's Third Concerto for Orchestra, launched at the Barbican on Tuesday in the wake of an important new John Casken piece at the Festival Hall, was on first hearing the less interesting of the two, though one performance of such an ambitious 45-minute piece is no basis for final judgment. Few performances are likely to be more persuasive, however. The London Symphony Orchestra gave its considerable best to Michael Tilson Thomas, who conducted with impressive control. He found plenty of atmospheric effects in the scoring — for large orchestra with prominent per-

ussion, piano, celesta and harp — but too few arresting ideas for such a long piece.

Indeed, it sounds like a composition "about" composing. There are few obvious external impulses, even if initial inspiration came from a South American journey 15 years ago. Early sketches were lost through the theft of his bag in La Paz, and now Holloway derives nearly all his material from a pair of interlocking thirds, which metamorphose in every possible way. He has admitted it to be an attempt at something avant-garde: previous works have found him torn between modernist and Neo-Romantic opposites; this piece falls nondescriptly in between.

After a mysterious, darkly-coloured opening pregnant with promise, the first movement is little more than a dense though smoothly flowing "texture-piece". The Chaconne that follows is the most structured movement in a tightly organised work. But not until the third movement does anything memorable happen: shimmering textures are gathered up in appealing, shifty tango rhythms.

Holloway's new work took him 13 years to complete, so perhaps Beethoven, for whom composition was always a tortuous struggle, made good complementary programming. But listening to this performance of the Emperor Piano Concerto was not easy, either. Barry Douglas was a willful soloist who opened a wide stylistic gap between himself and the orchestra.

JOHN ALLISON

from the director of *In Coeur en Hiver*

Emmanuelle Béart  
Michel Serrault  
Jean-Hugues Anglade

EXQUISITE AND TENDER

IT'S THE BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM YOU'LL SEE THIS YEAR

**Nelly and Mr Arnaud.**

A film by Claude Sautet

WINNER OF THE BEST DIRECTOR AWARD

WARNER WEST END  
LUMIERE  
UCI  
Barbican  
ODEON  
RATZ  
PHOENIX  
GREENWICH CINEPLEX

NOW SHOWING

STARTS FRIDAY APRIL 26 AT SELECTED CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

"WOODY ALLEN'S BACK ON TOP FORM - EXCELLENT 9/10"

LOADED

"WOODY BACK TO HIS FUNNY OLD WAYS - WELL WORTH WAITING FOR"

ALEXANDER WALKER - EVENING STANDARD

"ALLEN SHOWS HIS GENIUS IN DIVINELY FUNNY APHRODITE"

RACHEL SIMPSON - DAILY EXPRESS

"A FUNNY, FEEL-GOOD TRIUMPH"

PHILIP FRITCH - OBSERVER REVIEWS

"HILARIOUSLY FUNNY"

WILLIAM LEITH - MAIL ON SUNDAY

OSCAR WINNER

MIRA SORVINO - BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

**MIGHTY APHRODITE**

F. MURRAY ABRAHAM · WOODY ALLEN · CLAIRE BLOOM · HELENA BONHAM CARTER · OLYMPIA DUKAKIS · MICHAEL RAPAPORT · MIRA SORVINO · DAVID OGDEN STIERS · JACK WARDEN · PETER WELLER

WARNER WEST END  
LUMIERE  
UCI  
Barbican  
ODEON  
RATZ  
PHOENIX  
GREENWICH CINEPLEX

AND AT SELECTED CINEMAS ACROSS LONDON



CHOICE 1

Mike Nichols makes his British stage debut at the National

VENUE: In preview at the Cottesloe



CHOICE 2

Niamh Cusack opens the RSC Stratford season in As You Like It

VENUE: In preview at the Royal Shakespeare

THE TIMES ARTS



VIDEOS

Ken Loach's fine Spanish Civil War epic, Land and Freedom, comes to your living room



RECORDS

Sir Charles Mackerras leads Welsh National Opera festivities, and a spirited G&S compilation

LONDON

MUSIC ON THE SOUTH BANK Riccardo Muti makes a welcome return to the Festival Hall (7.30pm), after an eight-year absence to conduct the Philharmonia Orchestra and Chorus in Haydn's great Symphony No 48...

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Massey

ELSEWHERE

GLASGOW A storm-and-poly type of recital from the popular German violinist Christian Tetzlaff, who is accompanied by Lambert Orkis on the piano...

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

- HOUSE FULL, returns only with a new cast and a new production of the play by Caryl Churchill...
- MISS JULIE Polly Teale directs Susan Lynch in the role of Julie...
- SALAD DAYS Welcome return of Julian Stree's musical, directed by Mac Sherry...

LONDON

STRAFORD-UPON-AVON: The season opens with Stratford's production of As You Like It, with Niamh Cusack and Liam Cunningham playing the central pair of lovers...

LONDON GALLERIES: Contemporary Print Show Part 1 (0171-638 4141) British Museum: Vase and Volcano...

THEATRE GUIDE

- HOUSE FULL, returns only with a new cast and a new production of the play by Caryl Churchill...
- MISS JULIE Polly Teale directs Susan Lynch in the role of Julie...
- SALAD DAYS Welcome return of Julian Stree's musical, directed by Mac Sherry...

LONDON

NEW ON VIDEO: LAND AND FREEDOM Ken Loach's hands the Spanish Civil War leaps out of 1930s history books to become a matter of burning importance...

THE RED SHOES Carlton, U. 1948 EXTRACT Just the story and you are left with clichés about the rising ballerina (Moira Shearer) and her jealous, Svengali-like impresario (Anton Walbrook)...

THEATRE GUIDE

- HOUSE FULL, returns only with a new cast and a new production of the play by Caryl Churchill...
- MISS JULIE Polly Teale directs Susan Lynch in the role of Julie...
- SALAD DAYS Welcome return of Julian Stree's musical, directed by Mac Sherry...

LONDON

NEW ON VIDEO: MORTAL KOMBAT First Independent, 15, 1995 CINEMA version of the video game. All fights and special effects. The goodies are three earthlings: a hesitant expert in martial arts, a vainglorious actor, and a tough-minded girl with a useful penchant for figure-hugging clothes...

THE SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR Connoisseur, U. 1967 DUSAN MAKAVEJEV was the bright hope of Yugoslav cinema in the late 1960s, making provocative films bouncing with political analysis and the absurdity of life...

THEATRE GUIDE

- HOUSE FULL, returns only with a new cast and a new production of the play by Caryl Churchill...
- MISS JULIE Polly Teale directs Susan Lynch in the role of Julie...
- SALAD DAYS Welcome return of Julian Stree's musical, directed by Mac Sherry...

LONDON

NEW CLASSICAL CDS: Haydn's surprise; recognition for Ethel Smyth; 50 years of the WNO

CHAMBER Hilary Finch HAYDN touted his six Op 33 Quartets on a special subscription offer as they were written 'in a new and special way'...

THEATRE GUIDE

- HOUSE FULL, returns only with a new cast and a new production of the play by Caryl Churchill...
- MISS JULIE Polly Teale directs Susan Lynch in the role of Julie...
- SALAD DAYS Welcome return of Julian Stree's musical, directed by Mac Sherry...

LONDON

ORCHESTRAL Barry Millington SMYTH Serenade Concerto for Violin, Horn and Orchestra Langdon/Waikins/BBC Philharmonic/Martinez...

OPERA John Higgins WELSH NATIONAL OPERA A Celebration WNO chorus and orchestra/ various soloists and conductors...

THEATRE GUIDE

- HOUSE FULL, returns only with a new cast and a new production of the play by Caryl Churchill...
- MISS JULIE Polly Teale directs Susan Lynch in the role of Julie...
- SALAD DAYS Welcome return of Julian Stree's musical, directed by Mac Sherry...

LONDON

ENTERTAINMENTS ANTIQUES & ART FAIRS ANTIQUES FAIR Poddert's Centre Timporelle, Gosport 18.30, 21 APRIL...

OPERA & BALLET ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000 (no box office) Tickets available on the day...

THEATRES

- ALBERT 300 1700/04 4444 420 0000 Even 7.45, Mat 2.30, Sat 3.00
- BEST MUSICAL CRITICS' CIRCLE AWARD 96
- COMPANY by Stephen Sondheim & George Furth

LONDON

ENTERTAINMENTS ANTIQUES & ART FAIRS ANTIQUES FAIR Poddert's Centre Timporelle, Gosport 18.30, 21 APRIL...

OPERA & BALLET ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000 (no box office) Tickets available on the day...

THEATRES

- ALBERT 300 1700/04 4444 420 0000 Even 7.45, Mat 2.30, Sat 3.00
- BEST MUSICAL CRITICS' CIRCLE AWARD 96
- COMPANY by Stephen Sondheim & George Furth

Passions of war vividly evoked



End of illusions: ideological splits in the Left lead to savage confrontation in Ken Loach's Land and Freedom

NEW ON VIDEO: LAND AND FREEDOM Ken Loach's hands the Spanish Civil War leaps out of 1930s history books to become a matter of burning importance...

THE RED SHOES Carlton, U. 1948 EXTRACT Just the story and you are left with clichés about the rising ballerina (Moira Shearer) and her jealous, Svengali-like impresario (Anton Walbrook)...

THE SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR Connoisseur, U. 1967 DUSAN MAKAVEJEV was the bright hope of Yugoslav cinema in the late 1960s, making provocative films bouncing with political analysis and the absurdity of life...

NEW CLASSICAL CDS: Haydn's surprise; recognition for Ethel Smyth; 50 years of the WNO

CHAMBER Hilary Finch HAYDN touted his six Op 33 Quartets on a special subscription offer as they were written 'in a new and special way'...

ORCHESTRAL Barry Millington SMYTH Serenade Concerto for Violin, Horn and Orchestra Langdon/Waikins/BBC Philharmonic/Martinez...

OPERA John Higgins WELSH NATIONAL OPERA A Celebration WNO chorus and orchestra/ various soloists and conductors...

OPERA: Sterile

Victor... Fa... bede... by d...

among the best on record, while Sutherland and Challe really get one another going in Mira, o Norma. Under Richard Bonynge's baton this is stirring material...

WORTH HEARING

WORTH HEARING \*\*\* Worth considering \*\* Worth hearing \* Worth buying

Advertisement for 'The Four Seasons by Candlelight' at Royal Albert Hall, featuring a guide to shooting travel pictures.

A large grid of advertisements for various theatre productions, including 'The Phantom of the Opera', 'The Wind in the Willows', 'The Complete Works of William Shakespeare', and 'The Phantom of the Opera'.

18 APRIL 1996



OPERA

Vigorous singing and conducting, shame about the staging of the new Faust in Cardiff



DANCE

Hot moves from Montreal: an international choreographic display comes to Sadler's Wells

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE

Strindberg is given a heavy modernist twist as Miss Julie is revived at the Gate



TOMORROW

Rude about our royals? Peter Whelan explains the republican sentiments in his new play

OPERA: Sterling performances cannot save WNO's half-baked production; a cautious debut at the Garden

Victorian Faust bedevilled by design

The Welsh National Opera has had the bright idea of performing Tuesday's fifth anniversary production of Gounod's opera in the near-contemporary 1864 - English translation by Henry Chorley. To hear such legendary lines as "All hail, thou dwelling pure and lowly", familiar from countless old recordings, is really rather charming, and of course the Victorian syntax fits Gounod's music like a glove. This practice could well spread, though some even earlier versions, such as the famous Freischütz with its "whence gottest thou such wondrous balls?", might need tactful editing for today's audiences.

Sadly WNO has not quite come up with an 1860-ish performance to match.

Sir Charles Mackerras plainly loves the score - could any musician fail to? - and revels in its rich sonorities, its wealth of melody, its unashamed sentiment. At times his love carries him away: he both lingers unduly over the more glutinous moments, and tends to hurry the sprightlier numbers - the Kermesse chorus and the Waltz go at breakneck speeds, allowing little opportunity for shapely phrasing or nuance. There is little Gallic fragrance or delicacy in his reading, and the fat, juicy sound he draws from the orchestra drags the music forward by about 40 years, nearer the sound-world of Elgar and Mahler than that of Gounod.

This has an effect on the singing. The chorus, especially, sing loud, and then louder - impressive, but there is opportunity for more light and shade. Some of the principals, too, might sing even more expressively were they not so conscious of the barrage of sound to be surmounted. Jason Howard's Valentine, sung at a steady double forte, is a case in point, and his tone is growing worryingly dry and shallow.

Janice Watson, a soprano who really sings words, makes a lovely

Margarita; Mackerras was at his most considerate in the Jewel Song, nursing her through a wintily thrown-off account of this barely defensible showpiece, and she found plenty of good, solid tone for the Church Scene and final trio.

Paul Charles Clarke (Faust) virtually disarmed all criticism with his mezzotone top C diminuendo-ing down to nothing in "All hail" - a moment of pure magic - but I trust he will find more variety of dynamic as the run progresses, and drop his new mannerism of cutting off loud notes with a sort of glottal stop (leave that kind of thing to Pavarotti on a bad night). Alastair Miles, after years of singing the sort of roles even young basses are sentenced to - priests, heavy fathers and so on - thoroughly enjoyed wrapping himself round Mephistopheles in an instinctively stylish performance.

Oh dear, the production. Christopher Alden's WNO Turandot, interesting in parts, led me to remark that "he who strives may be forgiven", little suspecting how much would need to be forgiven, and how soon. This Faust, in plug-ugly floor by Bruno Schwengl, looked like a sly parody of bad "concept" stagings. Cliché was piled on cliché: shiny black costumes all round, long-haired wigs making everyone look like Irish setters, zombie-like slow motion, especially when the music is urgent.

The tiny role of Martha (Susan Gorton) was mysteriously beefed up - she became Mephisto's accomplice, Margarita's midwife and executioner. Siebel (Joanne Edworthy, miscast) had to drag half a tree on stage, not a bouquet. Margarita walked on water. Wow! Ideas proposed in the programme - a Grimes-ish persecution scenario, a rueful fallen-angel persona for Mephisto - were not put across in the staging. To call it all half-baked would be a slander on culinary art.

RODNEY MILNES



Faust as cliché: Janice Watson (front) as Margarita and Alastair Miles as an "instinctively stylish" Mephistopheles in WNO's staging

Without a star soprano in the title role, Arabella, the gentle Strauss-Hofmannsthal comedy of Viennese decay, can depress the takings at the box office. But this Covent Garden revival has turned out a success and credit is due to Mark Elder. At the Coliseum he showed himself a fine Strauss conductor and his Arabella at the other place now puts a triple underlining on that reputation.

The right measure of sugar is sprinkled on the waltzes, Arabella's supreme self-confidence amidst her tatty family is lyrically conveyed. The orchestra is finally unleashed in the stormy prelude to Act III, reflecting Mandryka's furious journey to the hotel of his bride-to-be.

Shade steps warily into the limelight

Or not to be in his current mood. So there was a full house for this performance, which brought the American soprano, Ellen Shade, in for her Covent Garden debut. She is big-boned, with the saucer eyes of that famed Arabella. Kiri Te Kanawa: she carries herself and her mid-19th century costumes well; but she lacks the vocal radiance for the role and especially the flash of girlish exuberance at the end of Act I.

In a cautious performance, where she was at pains to prevent her voice splaying in the upper register, Shade was at her best in the central act. The brief duet, pledging love to Mandryka, was tenderly done and her dismissal of the three suitors, with a farewell waltz apiece, properly imperious. Quite right too: the trio of counts are the weakness of the revival. But Shade lacks the vocal artillery for the closing scene, designed to sweep Mandryka and the whole audience off their collective feet.

ANN SCANLON

A guide to Shooting Great Travel Pictures



The Times has joined with Fodor's to offer you an indispensable guide to getting the best from your holiday photographs. The 214-page colour guide, normally £12.99, is available at £1.50. It gives advice on how to take perfect pictures of landscapes, architecture, portraits and animals. It explains how to shoot in different weather, covers horizon placement and camera technique with tips on exposure, depth of field, filters and camera choice.

HOW TO GET YOUR GUIDE: Collect four Fodor's tokens appearing in The Times this week and send them to the address on the order form which appeared on Saturday. Enclose a cheque/PO for £1.50 to cover p&hp. Orders must be received by April 30. The offer is subject to availability.

SAVE 25% ON TRAVEL GUIDES: You can also enjoy a 25% discount off the cost of any other Fodor's Gold Guides by placing an order through Stanfords' mail order service 0171-836 1321 or at one of its London shops. The Gold Guides have comprehensive maps, driving and walking tours and feature accommodation, restaurants, shopping and sightseeing. A charge of £1.50 per book to cover postage and packaging will be applied to mail orders.



Out of the gender blender

THIS is the second Miss Julie to have been staged in London within two weeks, and the fifth to have hit the capital in the past 18 months, a revival rate high enough to demand an explanation. Could the reason be that Strindberg addresses the contradictions of gender - a fashionable subject nowadays - as robustly as he does the everlasting complexities of class? Maybe; but I think it more likely that actresses rich to perform the "half-woman, half-man" at the play's centre, and producers are only too happy to indulge them. After all, they need only pay for one set, three performers, and maybe a few extras to rampage across the stage when the Count's valet Jean is seducing his daughter, Julie herself.

By all accounts, you would not know from Polly Teale's revival of the play at the Young Vic that it was once regarded as an example of pioneering naturalism. You certainly would not suspect from the Nick Philippou production for the Actors' Touring Company that Strindberg's preface to Miss Julie is a locus classicus of naturalist theory. Everything about the piece, from characterisation to dialogue to ideas to stage furniture,

THEATRE Miss Julie Gate, Wil

was meant to owe much more to gritty reality than to tradition and theatrical convention.

But here the kitchen in which the play occurs has become a weird aluminium cell. There is a door at the back through which yellow light glares, and scums to the side behind which grotesque figures may sometimes be seen. Peter Lindford's Jean is glimpsed more or less raping Kate Fenwick's Julie after a not-inappropriate prelude of loud bangs. Indeed, bangs are the least of the atmospheric-building noises on offer. We also get heavy breathing, clangs, rumbles, sinister gurgles, the sound of a radio being ineptly tuned, and electronic screeches, whistles, creaks, plunks and growls galore.

This is not exactly raw realism as Strindberg received it from Zola. The acting is deliberately over-the-top too. There are times when Fenwick and,

especially, Lindford seem to be harking back to the very flamboyance of style the naturalists wanted to replace. "Take me away from this fifth I'm sinking into," she wails after her seduction as she slides, eyes mad and hands pumping, down the wall to the ground. As for him, he twitches and squirms with febrile servility, more the hunted Uriah Heep or even the cornered Quasimodo than a macho Jeeves going through a challenging time.

Still, yesterday's realism is today's artificiality, and maybe Strindberg's original performers were more exotic than we like to believe. Moreover, I must admit that both actors grew on me as the evening rolled to its grim conclusion. They did, after all, combine huge emotional commitment with constant hints of the sexual doubts and social insecurities working away inside them. Do they miss some of the play's psychological subtleties? Yes; but they also release Strindberg from over-literal, over-scrupulous interpretation of his own dramatic ideas.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Not as nature intended? Kate Fenwick and Peter Lindford in Miss Julie

DANCE: An eclectic and electric programme bounces in from Montreal

International mix and match

two works for Les Grands Ballets Canadiens may come from one of the most chauvinistic cities in the world, but the company is truly international. Just look at the repertoire it brings on its current British tour. Mark Morris, William Forsythe, Kevin O'Day, Hans van Manen, Jiri Kylian, Nacho Duato: not a Canadian among them. It is an impressive line-up of work - and much of it is new to this country. The artistic director, Lawrence Rhodes, should be congratulated for nurturing such a healthy mix in his company.

The feather in his cap must be the commissioning of Mark Morris, one of the hottest choreographers in the business. The American has made

plains. He expects his performers to bubble and bounce as they leap into his springing jets. The troupe dances Quincunx well, although I suspect they would be even happier with a live rendition of Donizetti to bolster their ebullience.

Kevin O'Day's Principia is another work dancers should love. Set to music by Steve Martland (again taped), it is a slick and snappy series of dances for four couples. It should be after spending all those years dancing for Twyla Tharp, O'Day must have learnt a thing or two about nimble and sophisticated choreography. His own style is breezy rather than brazen, well suited to the slightly modest demeanour of the Montreal troupe.

is a party: the women are in high heels and black sequinned frocks; a waiter brings champagne. But the choreographed interplay between couples is banal; a comic routine between mismatched dancers only reminds one that Kenneth MacMillan did it better in Elite Synchronisms, and the protracted drunk scene at the end (accompanied by Massenet's Meditation) provided a ludicrous and irritating finale to what had been an evening of choreographic felicity.

DEBRA CRAINE









Handwritten text in a box at the top right.

man rises above the town of the town

Pertemps steps in to sponsor Guineas

THE most important racing double witnessed at Newmarket yesterday saw two companies announce valuable sponsorship deals with major implications for the sport. Two hours after Henry Cecil proudly donned a riding hat with Saab emblazoned alongside his initials, HRAC, Pertemps revealed details of important commercial backing for the 1,000 and 2,000 Guineas.

Cayman Kai's switch pays with Free Handicap win

By JULIAN MUSCAT

THE NGK Spark Plugs European Free Handicap at Newmarket yesterday marked the second consecutive trial won by a horse without classic aspirations when Cayman Kai swept through to collar Projection in the manner of a much-improved colt.

The way is now clear for Alhaarth, odds-on favourite for the 2,000 Guineas, to endorse his merit in the Craven Stakes today. With Royal Applause and Mark Of Esteem due to contest the Guineas on their seasonal debut, Alhaarth's encounter with



Cayman Kai and Eddery, right, claim an emphatic victory in the Free Handicap at Newmarket yesterday

off until you ask him. We didn't enter him in the Guineas because he looked like a sprinting type. His pedigree suggests otherwise. Barry Hills, who trains the runner-up Projection, doubted whether the form was up to classic standard. Hills has a more potent force at home in Royal Applause, who has pleased in his preparation.

Hard on Luso, who conceded 5lb. Clive Brittain, who trains the four-year-old, can expect a profitable season for Luso. Smart Alec, for his part, has retained all his juvenile speed and now heads for the Locking Stakes over a mile. He may well influence the destination of miling honours this term.

Peter Chapple-Hyam received an extremely precocious two-year-old in Carmine Lake, who tormented some well-regarded fillies in the NGK Spark Plugs Bartlow Maiden Fillies' Stakes. Carmine Lake is bound for the

Queen Mary Stakes at Royal Ascot. During this contest, Emma O'Gorman was thrown violently to the ground when her mount, Simply Times, pitched over within yards of the winning post. O'Gorman lay motionless for several minutes before she was taken to Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge. However, the initial prognosis was favourable.

Jockey Club fails to identify cause of Festival deaths

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

A JOCKEY CLUB investigation into the deaths of ten horses at last month's Cheltenham Festival yesterday failed to identify the cause of the carnage - and left officialdom praying it would not happen again. The number of fatalities at National Hunt's premier festival was three times the average over the past ten years.

NEWMARKET THUNDERER 2.00 Principally sound 2.35 Select Few 3.05 STORM TROOPER (nap)

2.00 EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £5,420: 6) (16 runners)

FORM FOCUS AMARA 19th 2nd of 6 in Woodgrove in maiden at Lingfield (AW, 7f). BLUE FLYER best Doncaster-Lingfield (AW, 7f) in 7-runner conditions race at Lingfield (AW, 7f) on consecutive days with BANGORVA (10f) on 4th and 3rd of 4 in 17-runner handicap at Newmarket (Gr, 5f).

2.35 NGK SPARK PLUGS HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £5,352: 1m 2) (10 runners)

3.05 FEILDEN STAKES (Listed race: 3-Y-O: £11,268: 1m 1) (13 runners)

FORM FOCUS MAHWAH 10th 7th. PROSPECTOR'S COVE best in 5-year-old class at Goodwood (1m, good).

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD 3.40 CRAVEN STAKES (Group III: 3-Y-O colts and geldings: £19,692: 1m) (5 runners)

4.10 ALEX SCOTT MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £5,026: 7) (8 runners)

FORM FOCUS HAMMISTON best in conditions race at York (7f, good) in 4-runner maiden race at York (7f, good) in 4-runner maiden race at York (7f, good) in 4-runner maiden race at York (7f, good).

4.45 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND STUNTY MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £4,230: 5f) (6 runners)

5.20 THERFORD CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-O: £5,525: 5f) (4 runners)

FORM FOCUS MUTADARRA short-head 2nd of 2 in Projection in maiden race at Newmarket (5f, good to soft).

Storm Trooper can steal the thunder in Feilden Stakes

NEWMARKET CHANNEL 4

2.35: Luca Cumani has his string in good form and Select Few is fancied to go well here. Despite being tall and weak last season, the Alzao colt ran on strongly to win a 13-runner maiden at Goodwood on his final start and there is every reason to suggest the best is still to come.



close third to Royal Applause in the Coventry Stakes last year but has not raced since. David Loder's runner has been showing up well at home but may be in need of his re-appearance.

The classic contender has pleased Dick Hern over the winter and it will be a big surprise if his colours are lowered. Rio Duvida came the closest of any rival to inflicting a defeat on Alhaarth when getting within half a length in the slowly run Champagne Stakes at Doncaster.

David Loder's runner is 1lb better off today, but his home work suggests he will be more effective over further than a mile. Beauchamp King has strengthened and matured over the winter and may be a bigger threat, although John Dunlop believes the Nishapur colt may prefer a bit more give in the ground.

AYR

THUNDERER 2.20 Potter's Bay, 2.50 Royal Stream, 3.20 Wadorn, 3.50 Puritan, 4.20 Montrose, 4.50 Sparky Gayle, Carl Evans: 2.50 Royal Stream.

2.20 WEST SOUND RADIO NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,444: 2m 4) (10 runners)

3.20 ROYAL SCOTS DRAGOON GUARDS CUP HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £3,513: 3m 3 1/2) (9)

3.50 GEORGE GRAHAM MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (£5,150: 3m 1) (6)

1 1136 SUNLEY BAY 33 (0.5) P Nicholls 10-11-10 A P McCoy 4151 EMBALD STORM 27 (0.5) P Nicholls 9-11-6 G Canal (9)

4.20 W G WALKER NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,696: 2m 5) (5)

4.55 FRIENDLY HOTELS HANDICAP HURDLE (£5,443: 3m 2 1/2) (11)

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAINERS: 7 winners from 4 runners, 75.0%: Mrs M. P. Kelly, 40 from 151, 26.5%, R. Alan, 3 from 12, 25.0%, G. Hancock, 47 from 204, 23.0%, J. Pegg, 3 from 12, 25.0%, M. Hancock, 10 from 67, 14.9%.

FREE Binoculars! FREE POCKET SPORTS BINOCULARS FOR FIRST TIME TELEPHONE CALLERS staking £40 or more using Switch or Delta bank or building society debit cards. RING TODAY - BET TODAY 0800 44 40 40

RACELINE 0930 168+ NEWMARKET RIPPON AYR IRISH

3.40: The unbeaten Alhaarth, odds-on to win the 2,000 Guineas, will be a warm order here and is difficult to oppose.

RICHARD EVANS









## RFU faces cup cash dispute

# Final demand presented by leading clubs

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE two leading rugby union clubs in England yesterday heaped further troubles on the beleaguered Rugby Football Union (RFU).

Bath and Leicester demanded a greater share of the gate receipts for the Pilkington Cup final, the showpiece of the domestic game, which they will contest in front of 75,000 supporters at Twickenham on May 4. The attendance will create a world record for a club match and yield £1.2 million.

The RFU, already at loggerheads with the leading clubs in the Courage Clubs Championship over the structure of the game in the new professional era, now faces a potentially messy dispute over money with two of the most influential rebel clubs, which are due to play other major fixtures, apart from the cup final, at Twickenham within the next few weeks.

Peter Wheeler, the Leicester chief executive, believes the finalists are entitled to greater financial consideration. "We are talking to the RFU and I hope things can be sorted out," he said. Leicester have sold £300,000-worth of tickets for the final and Wheeler claims that administrative costs will eat into their financial return from the competition.

Last season a limit of £35,000 was placed upon the money accruing to the finalists. This year the RFU will

take 15 per cent of the gate, to cover their hiring and management costs, and each of the finalists will receive four per cent, around £40,000. This situation is to be reviewed in time for next season but Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary, said no amendment would be made to an arrangement that had been agreed by all clubs at the start of this season.

"We believe, and I have had messages of support from many clubs, that there is no intention whatsoever to leave the Pilkington Cup from the top end of the game," Hallett said. That is somewhat at odds with the statement last week

Smith retires ..... 42  
Triple tie ..... 42

by the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs that they would boycott RFU competitions next season in their present format, although they have no quarrel with the structure of the cup.

Hallett did, however, hold out some hope to Bath and Leicester that their costs could be covered, by as much as £10,000, in a manner that would not affect the sums already earmarked for distribution to all participating clubs.

"There is no doubt this final will take place at Twickenham between Bath and Leicester,"

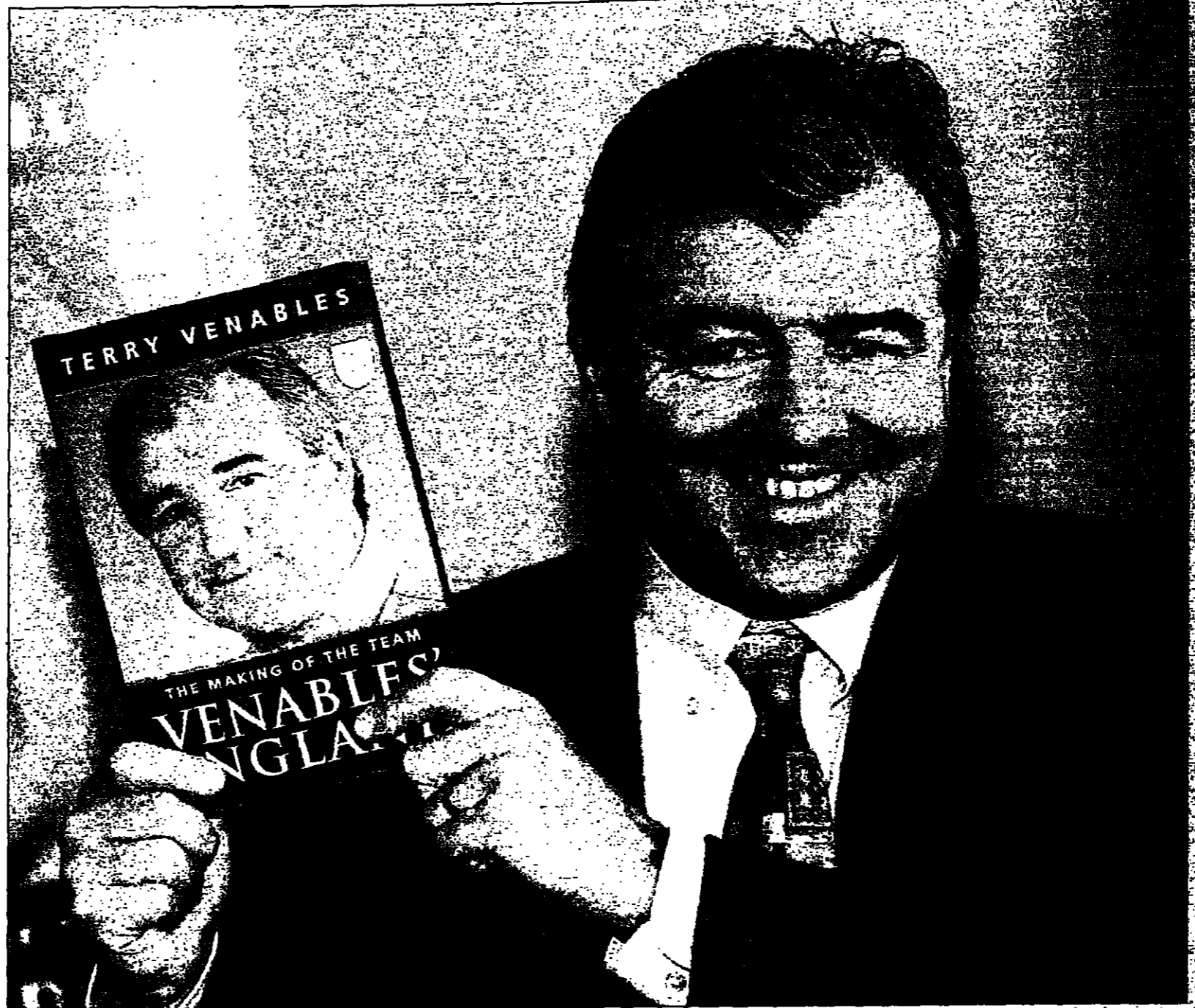
he said, a statement that would have been unnecessary a few months ago but now reflects the lack of accord between governors and governed. "The game has changed a lot since September, people and management have changed, but the clubs entered the competition knowing the conditions," Hallett said. "For next season we will be able to discuss conditions for the clubs in the new era and a distribution that may be more equitable."

Hallett was happier when discussing an extension to Pilkington's sponsorship of the competition, which was announced yesterday. "The most significant thing is to assess the distribution of the spoils of this sponsorship," he said. "The distribution in the future needs to be adapted and to reflect the position you achieve in the competition."

Pilkington has been a faithful ally to the RFU since 1988. The present, three-year contract, worth £750,000, will increase in value to around £1.1 million for a further three years, thanks largely to Pilkington's withdrawal from the junior club knockout tournament after next month's final between Heston and Medicals. The junior clubs will join forces under a new sponsor with a new intermediate competition.

That is of little significance when set against the vote of confidence in the RFU that Pilkington's decision represents. "We see a great future for the cup competition," David Roycroft, the glass company's head of corporate affairs, said, declining to be drawn into the tortuous politics of rugby. It is also an act of faith, given the uncertainty that exists among the five nations over negotiations with television companies.

Television exposure is critical in any sponsorship agreement. Whether within or without the five nations, the RFU seeks a mixed package of terrestrial and satellite television coverage.



Despite the setbacks before next week's England match, Venables manages a smile at the launch of his book yesterday. Photograph: Martin Boddall

## Venables unfazed by twists in the plot

By OLIVER HOLT

THE assorted feet of a throng of photographers sank deep into the plush sofas ranged around his west London club, but Terry Venables did not bat an eye. Beside Alan Shearer's Gilmore Groin (strain) and the setback to Tony Adams's dodgy knee, a few scuffed cushions pale into insignificance. The England football coach had had enough news about the breaking of his team; yesterday, he arrived to celebrate the making of it for the launch of his new book, *Venables in England*.

So the cameras whirred, coffee cups chinked on their saucers and Venables posed patiently with the new publication, an intelligent journey through his two-year spell in

charge of the national team, a dissection of his tactics, his court cases, his relationship with Paul Gascoigne and the lessons England can learn from Carlos Alberto Parreira's preparation of the Brazilian team for the 1994 World Cup.

Its launch is as good an indication as any that the final phase of the build-up to this summer's European championship is underway, but if Tuesday had been dominated by doom and gloom about the injuries to Adams and Shearer, Venables, never one for making excuses, sauntered into the Scribes West bar after the pictures had been taken and opined that they might, in fact, be a blessing in disguise.

"People talk about how some of our clubs have taken part in 65 games this season

and the damage that could do to the players' fitness," Venables said. "But there is not one player in our whole group who has played more than 50. It goes right down to someone like Jamie Redknapp, who has played 30 or 32."

"A lot of members of the squad have been injured and that has given them a bit of a breather in some cases. It can be like a mini-break for some of them, perhaps even Shearer. He is one of those who wants to play all the time and it could just be nature's way of telling him to slow down. "I have tried to train myself in a positive fashion not to be sidetracked by all these injuries. It is very unfortunate for me and the coaching staff but the show goes on and we have

to make sure we show the same sort of confidence in the players who come in instead. They might be the ones who end up playing in the tournament. That is why we have built a big squad of people that can handle whatever comes their way."

Venables, who named Jason Wilcox, of Blackburn Rovers, and Sol Campbell, of Tottenham Hotspur, in his squad for the match against Croatia at Wembley next Wednesday, said he had tried to bring the team's style of play closer to the European norm. "You have got to be careful you don't blast them with too much information, though," he said. "It's a bit like putty. If you just put a bit in the frame, it grows and gets stronger. If you put a big dob on, the wind

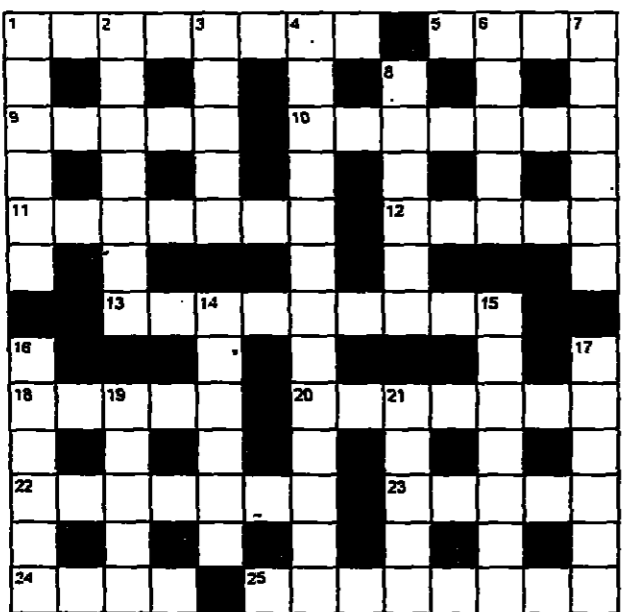
comes and blows it all out. You have got to make sure it sticks."

His face only creased into a frown when he had to deny fresh reports that the FA was still trying to persuade him to stay on as manager after the European championship. "I'm getting fed up with it," he said. "The situation is exactly the same. Someone has taken a flier and gathered all this up again. They have said (in talking to Sir Bert [Millichamp, the FA chairman] but I haven't spoken to him. We've got no plans to speak as far as I know. He may ring me this afternoon, but at the moment, I can assure you there are no plans to speak."

Ferguson out, page 45  
Bayern's final step, page 45

### TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 759 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                                      | <b>DOWN</b>                            |
| 1 Get in front of (8)                              | 1 Dull-witted (6)                      |
| 5 SE Asia country, capital Vientiane (4)           | 2 Expatriate on (7)                    |
| 9 Slightly drunk (5)                               | 3 Wear (clothes) before purchase (3,2) |
| 10 Fruit-tree field (7)                            | 4 Effortlessly outdo (5,5,3)           |
| 11 First manmade satellite (7)                     | 6 Bestow (5)                           |
| 12 Check (company's) books (5)                     | 7 Staid: give calming drug (20)        |
| 13 Vanish (9)                                      | 8 Abrade: problematic situation (6)    |
| 16 Franz --, operaist composer (5)                 | 14 Walk purposefully, fast (6)         |
| 20 Crossing (7)                                    | 15 Withdraw (decision) (7)             |
| 22 A nuisance: one whose name is forgotten (2-3-2) | 16 Exclusive: shut (6)                 |
| 23 With ingrained dirt (5)                         | 17 (Horse) with stamina (6)            |
| 24 Lower part of decorated wall (4)                | 19 Store against shortage (5)          |
| 25 Law-breaker (8)                                 | 21 Maintain (in debate) (5)            |

**PRIZES:**  
THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network.  
THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of departure and destination points throughout the UK as well as Europe. As the UK's second largest scheduled service airline and Heathrow's second biggest user, it operates a fleet of 35 aircraft on over 1200 flights per week throughout the UK and Europe. All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address .....

**SOLUTION TO NO 758**  
ACROSS: 1 Bower 7 Insider 8 Shingle 9 Twelfth 11 Skewer 13 Dead Soul 15 Pen-supper 19 Durham 21 Gentel 23 At first 24 Derrick 25 Eject  
DOWN: 1 Basis 2 Waiver 3 Rugged 4 Diet 5 Rialto 6 Pep talk 10 Wedded 12 Resume 14 Jeezbel 16 Sature 17 Ruffie 18 Charge 20 Motet 22 Lake

## Reid checks over final score

By DAVID MADDOCK

PETER REID, the Sunderland manager, is not ready to listen to the entreaties of his club's supporters just yet. "Cheer up Peter Reid" they beseech to the tune of *Daydream Believer*, by The Monkees. It is a reference to his now renowned, unmovable demeanour in the face of an impressive rise up the Endsleigh Insurance League first division. So far, even after Sunderland virtually guaranteed promotion on Tuesday evening, their tuncful pleas have been ignored.

Reid did conduct a ribald group through the whole, reworded song in the bar after the victory over Birmingham

City at Roker Park on Tuesday. He was, however, as poker-faced as ever and he has, he said, good reason.

"When I was a young player with Bolton, back in the late Seventies, we were in pole position, absolute certainties to go up, two seasons on the run and we messed it up right at the death. Those failures have scarred me, they are still with me now," he said. "I suppose that's why I want it nailed on with Sunderland. I won't start celebrating until we are absolutely certain of walking out in that Premiership next season. Mind you, it would take a hell of a disaster now to stop us."

Sunderland, in fact, could be certain of promotion come

Saturday evening without kicking a ball. Crystal Palace, the only side who can now stop them, must win to extend this particular drama into the final act. Even then, a point is all that is required from Sunderland's last three games and, given the fact that they are the best team in the division, it should not prove too elusive.

Reid will then have the imposing task of preparing the North East club for life among the high rollers. It is an altogether faster pace, in the FA Carling Premiership, and Reid knows it, having spun the dice with Manchester City as a novice manager.

He did well, in fact, steering them to top-six placings in

consecutive seasons before he was driven out, largely because of a poor relationship with the chairman.

"Of course there is not a vast amount of money to spend here at Sunderland when we do go up, but then there wasn't at Manchester City," he said. "People have been writing Sunderland off already, but in many ways there is a similarity between this club and City. "There will be money made available and if it is spent sensibly then there is no reason why we can't achieve what City did when I was there as manager. There has been a lot said about our prospects, mostly negative, but I am pretty confident about our chances."

## Monarchs put The Fridge on ice

By RICHARD WETHERELL

WILLIAM "The Refrigerator" Perry, the former National Football League (NFL) giant whose bulk was employed to relaunch the World League of American Football (WLAF), has been frozen out by his new team, the London Monarchs, after only one game.

The Fridge, who became a household name in the United States and beyond when he helped the Chicago Bears to win the Super Bowl in 1985, was the focal point of the Monarchs' pre-season publicity drive off the field, but he has lost his place as defensive tackle to a home-grown talent, Lewis Capes, son of the shot-putter Geoff, for the match against Frankfurt Galaxy on Saturday.

In fact, Capes played a greater role than Perry during the Monarchs' loss to the Scottish Claymores last Sunday, despite being listed on the team sheet as Perry's understudy. On the latest sheet, the players' roles have been reversed. Capes is a beneficiary of the league's rule stating that a national player must be on the field for each team on alternating sets of plays, a set being one offensive and one defensive series. But it is Perry,

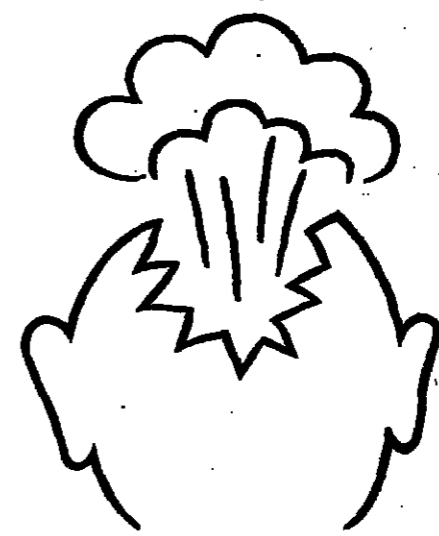


Perry: hindered by his weight

rather than any of the lesser-known figures on the defensive line, who steps down.

Perry had weight problems throughout his NFL career with the Chicago Bears and the Philadelphia Eagles — indeed, even before it. He was born weighing 131b and is listed at "350-ish" in

### MORSE



Just announced.  
Sun's new 'Enterprise' range of servers.  
Desktop to mainframe-class scalability. With reliability, network performance, storage capability and sheer speed that will blow your mind.  
Call for our 1-page executive summary.



Morse Computers 0181 232 8686

Hezbollah  
Shel...  
on...  
dea...  
MORSE  
Sun  
Morse Computers 0181 232 8686  
D